



ENGINE: Empowering New Generations to Improve Nutrition and Economic Opportunities

A project supported by the US Global Health and Feed the Future Initiatives

Save the Children

Year II: Annual Report

October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013



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Acronyms

AEWs	Agriculture Extension Workers
ADFNS	Africa Day of Food and Nutrition Security
AGP	Agricultural Growth Program
AMDe	Agribusiness and Market Development in Ethiopia
ANC	Antenatal Care
AOR	Agreements Officer's Representative
ARM	Annual Review Meeting
ART	Anti-retroviral Therapy
AUC	African Union Commission
ATVET	Agriculture Technical and Vocational Education and Training
BCC	Behavior Change Communication
CC	Community Conversation
CCA	Community Change Agent
CHDs	Child Health Days
CMAM	Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition
CoE	Center of Excellence
COP	Chief of Party
DAs	Development Agents
EHNRI	Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute
EMRDA	Ethiopian Muslim Relief and Development Association
ENGINE	Empowering New Generations in Improved Nutrition and Economic Opportunities
EOC-DICAC	Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church Development and Inter-Church AID Commission
EOS	Enhanced Outreach Strategy
ES	Economic Strengthening
ETS	Effective Teaching Skills
FANTA-3	Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project
FBP	Food by Prescription
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
FTC	Farmer Training Center
FtF	Feed the Future
FMoA	Federal Ministry of Agriculture
FMoH	Federal Ministry of Health
GAIN	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
GHI	Global Health Initiative
GRAD	Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development
HC	Health Center
HDA	Health Development Army
HEP	Health Extension Plan
HEWs	Health Extension Workers
HF	Health Facilities
HH	Households
HMIS	Health Management Information System
HP	Health Post
HSDP IV	Health Sector Development Program IV
HWs	Health Workers
iCCM	integrated Community Case Management
IDD	Iodine Deficiency Disorders
IDs	In-depth Interviews
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
IMCI	Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
IRT	Integrated Refresher Training
ISS	Integrated Supportive Supervision
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
IYCN	Infant and Young Child Nutrition

JHU-CCP	Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs
LES	Livelihood and Economic Strengthening
LMD	Livestock Marketing Development
LOL	Land O' Lakes, Inc.
LOQAS	Lot Quality Assurance Sampling
MAIYCN	Maternal, Infant Adolescent and Young Child Nutrition
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MCH	Mother and Child Health
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MI	Micronutrient Initiative
MIYCF	Maternal, Infant and Young Child Feeding
MIAYCN	Maternal, Adolescent, Infant and Young Child Nutrition
MNCH	Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoE	Ministry of Education
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MoWCYA	Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs
MSG	Mother Support Group
MUM	Mums for Mums
NACS	Nutrition Assessment, Counseling and Support
N-GLLEE	Nutrition/Agriculture Global Learning and Evidence Event
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NNCB	National Nutrition Coordination Body
NNCWG	National Nutrition Communication Working Group
NNP	National Nutrition Program
NNTC	National Nutrition Technical Committee
NSA	Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture
NTWG	Nutrition Technical Working Group
OFDA	Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
OR	Operations Research
OTP	Outpatient Therapeutic Program
PEPFAR	President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PLW	Pregnant And Lactating Women
PLWHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PMTCT	Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission
PI	Principle Investigator
PNC	Post-natal Care
PSE	Pre-Service Education
Q&A	Question and Answer
QI	Quality Improvement
RHB	Regional Health Bureau
RNCB	Regional Nutrition Coordination Body
RNTC	Regional Nutrition Technical Committee
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBC	Social and Behavior Change
SBCC	Social and Behavior Change Communication
SC	Save the Children
SBM-R	Standards-Based Management and Recognition
SNNPR	Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Region
SQUEAC	Semi-Quantitative Evaluation of Access and Coverage
SUN	Scaling-up Nutrition
TA	Technical Assistance
ToR	Terms of Reference
TOT	Training of Trainers
TSFP	Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program
TU	Tufts University
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
TWG	Technical Working Group
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

VAT	Value Added Tax
VHH	Vulnerable Households
VI	Valid International
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WorAO	Woreda Agriculture Office
WorHO	Woreda Health Office
ZC	Zonal Coordinators
ZHD	Zonal Health Department

Executive Summary

Background

Program areas

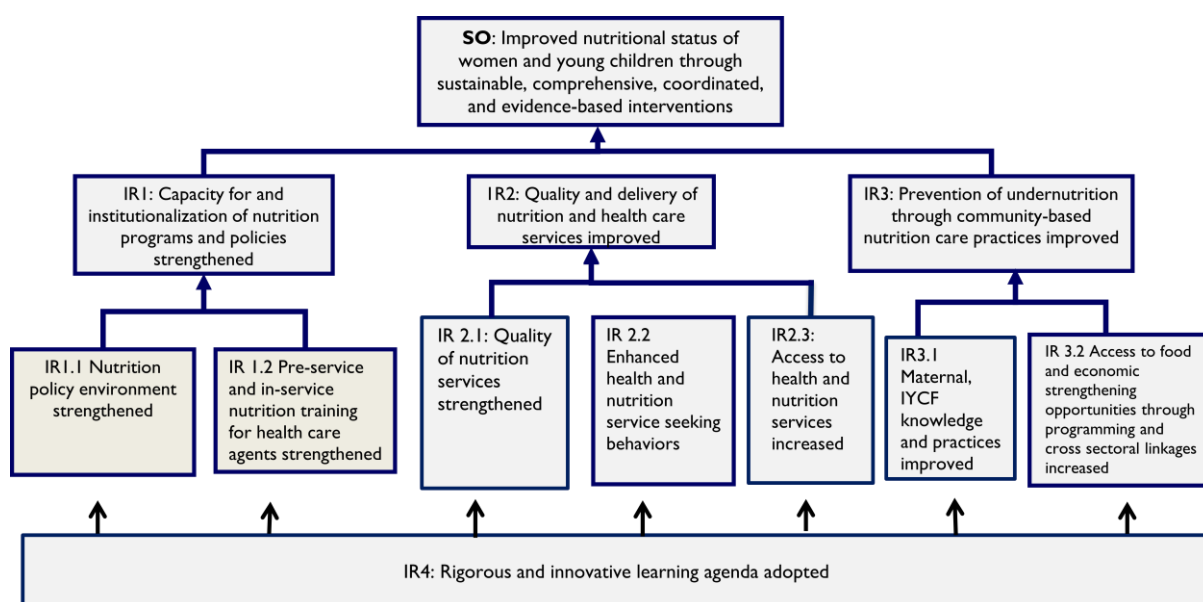
Save the Children (SC) leads the implementation of ENGINE, the USAID flagship multi-sector nutrition project, which aims to improve the nutritional status of Ethiopian women and children through sustainable, coordinated and evidence-based interventions, enabling them to lead healthier and more productive lives. The core initiative of this large-scale, five-year project (2011-2016) is to prevent undernutrition during the first 1,000 days, from the start of pregnancy until the child is 2 years old, by focusing on social and behavior change communication (SBCC), including linkages to livelihood and economic opportunities.

ENGINE is funded from Feed the Future (FtF) and Global Health Initiative (GHI) nutrition funds, with additional resources provided by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The project builds on the Government of Ethiopia's (GoE) policies and renewed commitment to nutrition as well as the U.S. Government's GHI and FtF initiatives, USAID Water and Development Strategy and USAID Forward Reform Agenda.

Results framework

The expected results for the project as shown below include: IR1: Capacity for and institutionalization of nutrition programs and policies strengthened; IR2: Quality and delivery of nutrition and health care services improved; IR3: Prevention of undernutrition through community-based nutrition care practices improved; and IR4: Rigorous and innovative learning agenda adopted.

Results Framework for the ENGINE Project



Program implementation strategy

As a technical assistance (TA) project, ENGINE facilitates a multi-sector implementation strategy that builds capacity for nutrition at the policy and implementation levels; strengthens pre-service and in-service nutrition education; supports large-scale SBCC for nutrition; and links nutrition, livelihood and food security interventions. ENGINE's robust learning agenda also supports and guides effective national nutrition policy and practices to reduce undernutrition.

SC manages this integrated nutrition project through a consortium of the following sub-grantees: Jhpiego, Tufts University (TU), Valid International (VI), Land O'Lakes (LOL) and Johns Hopkins University - Center for Communication Programs (JHU-CCP). In Year III, JHU-CCP will phase out its activities in the first and second quarters and the SBCC activities will be transitioned to the Manoff Group and SC.

ENGINE also partners with the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), Federal Ministry of Agriculture (FMoA) and their respective decentralized health and agriculture offices at the regional, district and kebele levels. Additionally, ENGINE works with universities, regional colleges and the Ethiopian Health and Nutrition Research Institute (EHNRI) on operational research and pre-service integration of nutrition.

Geographic coverage and beneficiaries

Over the life of the project, ENGINE will target a total of 100 *woredas* (districts) – 83 Agriculture Growth Program (AGP) or “productive” *woredas*¹ and 17 non-AGP or “food-insecure” *woredas* – in the four large regions of Ethiopia: Amhara, Oromia, Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples' Region (SNNPR) and Tigray. ENGINE will benefit 3.1 million under-5 children, half a million pregnant and lactating women, 3.2 million women of reproductive age and 2.7 million households.

Key Achievements

ENGINE made significant progress toward reaching its objectives in Year II covering the period from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013.

Geographic coverage

In Year II, ENGINE rapidly scaled-up its direct nutrition and nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA) interventions² to 42 new *woredas*, increasing project coverage from 41 to 83 *woredas*. ENGINE identified the remaining 17 non-AGP *woredas* and developed a unique, multi-sector platform to prevent and address high malnutrition rates in these food insecure areas – in close collaboration with USAID, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development (GRAD) and GOAL.

¹ AGP aims to increase agricultural productivity and market access for key crop and livestock products in 83 *woredas* with increased participation of women and youth.

² Direct nutrition interventions include promotion of vitamin A, iron and zinc, and MIYCN. Nutrition-sensitive agriculture activities include demonstrations at Farmer Training Centers (FTCs) and schools; homestead production of fruits and vegetables; provision of livestock; and promotion of dietary diversity.

Nutrition policy

ENGINE played a key role in the revitalization of the National Nutrition Coordination Body (NNCB) and the creation and finalization of the revised multi-sector National Nutrition Program (NNP). At the revised NNP launch and knowledge-sharing event in June 2013, ENGINE showcased its innovative project initiatives and disseminated lessons-learned through six abstract presentations and a poster session. **ENGINE is also supporting the FMoH, in rolling-out the revised NNP to the regions.** In August 2013, ENGINE provided TA to the SNNPR regional health bureau to effectively disseminate the NNP down to the grass-roots level and to establish the first NNP regional coordination structure in Ethiopia.

Partnership

ENGINE established a nutrition technical working group (TWG) to coordinate FtF nutrition activities and support integration of nutrition into other FtF projects. ENGINE developed a terms of reference (ToR) for the nutrition TWG and chaired three meetings in Year II. The TWG was instrumental in avoiding duplication of project efforts, in identifying opportunities for collaboration, sharing technical expertise and assisting other projects to overcome challenges. For example, ENGINE provided TA for GRAD in the design of its baseline survey to assess nutritional outcomes. Additionally, through the TWG and independently, ENGINE supported USAID in planning and facilitating the first nutrition-focused FtF workshop to highlight the importance of nutrition and how it can be streamlined into FtF resilience and value chains projects.

Pre-service education

ENGINE improved the quality of pre-service nutrition education at 12 higher institutions³ by strengthening the nutrition curriculum, enhancing facility capacity in instructional design and creating an enabling environment for nutrition education. The project developed nutrition core competencies that were integrated into health and agriculture courses at the target universities and colleges. **ENGINE also selected Hawassa University to establish a nutrition academic center of excellence (CoE).** The vision of the CoE is to contribute to the reduction of undernutrition by creating a centralized learning laboratory that links nutrition research with policy, training, and provision and utilization of high quality, innovative community-based nutrition services. The CoE will promote and advance the revised NNP and foster research on new and improved approaches to reduce stunting.

Capacity building

ENGINE trained 7,795 (37 percent female) health and agricultural workers in nutrition and health. The project also integrated nutrition into 126 *woreda* level review meetings, and conducted supervision visits at 453 health centers (HCs) and 714 health posts (HPs) with government counterparts.⁴ In building the local capacity of households, school teachers and agriculture workers in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, ENGINE trained 22,589 (48 percent female) farmers and government workers. ENGINE organized agronomic and cooking demonstration events at 35 farmer training centers (FTCs) and 61 schools with active participation from 49,323 farmers. **ENGINE built the capacity of health workers to conduct interactive cooking demonstrations and demonstrate optimal nutrition behaviors for 20,386 parents in the target communities (79 percent female).**

³ The 12 target institutions include four universities (Jimma, Hawassa, Gondar, and Mekele), four regional health science colleges (Hawassa, Shashemene, Bahir Dar, Araya Kahu (Axum) and four agricultural TVET colleges (Dilla, Alage, Bure and Shire).

⁴ More than one review meeting took place per *woreda*. Supervision visits were conducted at 453 out of 416 total HCs in the project area (some HCs were visited twice) and at 714 HPs out of 2016 HCs in the four regions.

Social and Behavior Change Communications (SBCC)

As part of its SBCC strategy, ENGINE with JHU-CCP, launched a nutrition radio magazine program in all four regions called *Shi Qenat*, which means the first 1,000 days. The objective of this 17-part radio program was to effectively communicate nutrition and health-related issues to the general public and foster community participation. The program was aired in local languages once per week reaching close to one million people. ENGINE also completed formative research data collection to determine the factors that influence dietary practices among pregnant women, women with children under 2 years, and adolescent females. Next quarter, ENGINE will analyze the data and generate findings that will be used to refine the project's SBCC strategy. ENGINE will also prepare a series of user-friendly reports and research briefs that will be shared with partners and contribute to the evidence base for SBCC in support of nutrition and agriculture programs.

Baseline impact survey

ENGINE successfully completed its baseline impact evaluation in September 2013. The survey team interviewed 11,857 households covering 42 districts (28 intervention areas, 14 controls). ENGINE shared the preliminary findings of the baseline for year one at the NNP knowledge sharing workshop and March FtF coordination forum. After completing data analysis in early November 2013, ENGINE will share the final baseline results with FtF partners and key stakeholders to inform programming and targeting of nutrition-sensitive interventions.

Operations research

In Year II, ENGINE's research team (VI and Jimma University) launched a moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) operational research (OR) study in Jimma zone. The results will show what proportion of children with MAM in food secure *woredas* will recover and what proportion will deteriorate towards severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and identify the factors associated with each to guide policy and programming. TU, working with Jimma, Hawassa, and EHNRI, completed data collection for nutrition policy research, completed protocol development for seven secondary analysis studies and nearly finalized protocol development for two large-scale cohort studies (birth cohort and agriculture-nutrition cohort). ENGINE also established a PhD program with Jimma University for seven PhD students who are also supporting the project's OR studies.

Reporting Period

This is the ENGINE project's **Year II Annual Report** covering the reporting period from **October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013**.

Publication/Reports

Did your organization support the production of publications, reports, guidelines or assessments during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable ☐

Yes ☒

If yes, please list below:

Title	Author	Date
Nutrition-sensitive Agriculture (NSA) training for Agriculture Development Agents (DAs); facilitator and participant manuals	ENGINE updated existing materials	December 2012
Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN)	ENGINE updated existing	December

training for health workers (HWs): facilitator and participant manuals	materials	2012
Nutrition core competencies for health science cadres and undergraduate nutritionists in Ethiopia	Jhpiego with ENGINE advisors	December 2012
Nutrition core competencies for mid-level animal and plant science disciplines at agriculture TVET colleges in Ethiopia	Jhpiego with ENGINE advisors	December 2012
Nutrition training manual for agriculture and health program managers	Jhpiego with ENGINE advisors	December 2012
ENGINE Baseline impact survey - interim report	VI with ENGINE advisors	February 2013
Nutrition and school gardening training manual for teachers	ENGINE adapted manual from FAO	February 2013
Abstracts accepted for presentation at NNP launch and knowledge sharing event		
Nutrition-Sensitive Agriculture to Promote Dietary Diversity	Kebede Tefesse, Senior Nutrition and Livelihood Advisor, Save the Children	2013 June
Rapid Market Assessment for Fruits and Vegetables	Amare Feleke, Economic Strengthening Advisor, LOL	2013 June
Measuring Key Health and Nutrition Indicators by Woreda: ENGINE Year I Baseline Results	Philip James, Country Representative, Valid International	2013 June
Role of Gender Relations in Household Nutrition	Yetarik Sebhatu, Gender Advisor, SC	2013 June
Nutrition Core Competencies: A Foundation for Pre-service Education & In-service Training	Endris Mekonnen, Pre-Service Education Advisor, Jhpiego	2013 June
Formulation of Quality Protein Maize- Nutritionally Improved Complementary Food: the Case of Shebadino Woreda in Southern Ethiopia	Beruk Berhanu (Master's Degree student supported by ENGINE)	2013 June
Prevalence and Associated Factors of Anemia among Pregnant Women Attending Antenatal Care at Government Health Institutions: Bahir Dar Town	Eyenesh Beyene (Master's Degree student support by ENGINE)	2013 June

Technical Assistance (TA)

Did your organization utilize short-term TA during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable ☐

Yes ☒

Please list below:

If yes, please attach an electronic copy of the TA report as part of your submission (**Annex I**).

TA Consultants

Name	Arrival	Departure	Organization	Type of TA provided
Jane Brown Kathryn Bertram	2 Oct 2012	25 Oct 2012	JHU-CCP	Conduct SBCC strategy workshop.
Cheryl Lettenmaier Andrew Whaley	21 Jan 2013 15 July 2013	1 Feb 2013 26 July 2013	JHU-CCP	Facilitate radio drama design workshop and finalize scripts. Annex I

Michelle Kaufman	21 April 2013	28 April 2013	JHU-CCP	Facilitate training for SBCC formative research study.
Cheryl Lettenmaier	19 May 2013 9 June 2013 14 July 2013	25 May 2013 15 June 2013 26 July 2013	JHU-CCP	Assist local team in completing delayed SBCC deliverables. Annex I
Joy Miller Del Rosso	5 March 2013 29 June 2013	22 March 2013 5 July 2013	SC/US	Provide direction for SBCC activities.
Karen Waltensperger	13 Jan 2013 18 July 2013	26 Jan 2013 2 August 2013	SC/US	Promote WASH integration into ENGINE activities. Conduct report writing workshops for national and regional staff. Annex I
Avril Armstrong	9 Nov 2012	18 Nov 2012	LOL	Conduct nutrition training for livelihood zonal coordinators.
Aripong Abbey	13 Nov 2012 6 Mar 2013	25 Nov 2012 20 Mar 2013	LOL	Conduct rapid market assessment. Trip report to be submitted next quarter. Annex I
Carmen Jaquez	20 May 2013	31 May 2013	LOL	Assess feasibility of developing livestock micro-insurance program. Annex I
Samuel Karnis	7 June 2013	15 June 2013	LOL	Provide management support for field team.
Brian Dotson	12 June 2013	14 June 2013	LOL	Review and discuss progress on Livelihood and Economic Strengthening (LES) activities.
Eileen Kennedy	29 Oct 2012 27 May 2013	3 Nov 2012 8 June 2013	TU	Finalize policy research protocol and collect data.
Jennifer Coates Shibani Ghosh Marion Min-Barron	9 Dec 2012	13 Dec 2012	TU	Conduct OR development workshop.
Peter Walker Jeffrey Griffith Shibani Ghosh	19 Mar 2013	22 Mar 2013	TU	Facilitate OR meeting and develop protocol for cohort studies.
Peter Walker Jeffrey Griffith Jennifer Coates	9 June 2013	15 June 2013	TU	Conduct cohort study workshop.
Kate Sadler	11 Nov 2012 4 March 2013	14 Nov 2012 16 March 2013	VI	Support OR studies at Jimma University. Trip report in.
Allie Norris	14 Mar 2013	21 Mar 2013	VI	Plan for Semi-Quantitative Evaluation of Access and Coverage (SQUEAC) survey.
Basia Benda	26 June 2013	5 July 2013	VI	Support Year III activities. Annex I.
Paluku Bahwere	14 July 2013	19 July 2013	VI	Supervise MAM OR training and facilitate preparations for SAM study. Annex I.
Mark Shelton	21 Aug 2013	25 Aug 2013	VI	Investigate VAT issues and advise on options to address them. Annex I.

Travel and Visits

Did your organization support international travel during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable ☐

Yes ☒

All international travel to conferences, workshops, trainings, HQ or meetings

Name	Destination	Departure from Ethiopia	Arrival in Ethiopia	Host Organization	Purpose of the travel
Habtamu Fekadu	Uganda	9 Dec 2012	13 Dec 2012	Spring project	To participate in Nutrition/Agriculture Global Learning and Evidence Event (N-GLEE),
Habtamu Fekadu	Spain	15 Sept 2013	22 Sept 2013	Spring project	To present on capacity building at the International Congress of Nutrition meeting as part of a symposium on <i>Past and Current Experiences in Leveraging Multiple Program and Partner Platforms to Scale-Up Nutrition Interventions</i> .
Belaynesh Yifru	Tanzania	23 Feb 2013	1 Mar 2013	African Union Commission (AUC)	To attend regional nutrition capacity development workshop for ensuring nutrition interventions are planned, budgeted and implemented in national agriculture and food security policies.

Have any program **monitoring visits/supervisions** been made during the reporting period?

No/Not Applicable ☐

Yes ☒

Please list below:

Description of Monitoring Team	Start Date	End Date	Sites Visited	Written recommendations provided
Health and Nutrition	16 April 2013	19 April 2013	Bonga, Decha Chena <i>woredas</i>	-Provide nutrition updates at health center and <i>woreda</i> review meetings. -Conduct monthly cooking demonstrations with both agriculture and health agents.
	18 Sept. 2013	19 Sept. 2013	Goma <i>woreda</i>	Use job aids when counselling mothers and record sessions in Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) registers.
	26 Nov. 2012	28 Nov. 2012	Shirka, Limuna Bilbilo <i>woredas</i>	-Accurately document MIYCN counseling in log books. -Field test data collection formats for nutrition and livelihood activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation	6 Dec. 2012	7 Dec. 2012	Emor Ener <i>woreda</i>	Continue high quality baseline survey data collection.
	23 May 2013	26 May 2013	Guduru Horo Wayu Tuka <i>woredas</i>	-Provide more frequent data monitoring visits. -Conduct data management and reporting training.
	18 Sept. 2013	19 Sept 2013	Limuna Bilbilo <i>woreda</i>	Refine targets to accurately reflect MIYCN performance at health facilities.
Livelihood and Economic Strengthening	2 Oct. 2012	3 Oct. 2012	Lemu Bilbilu, Dodola and Kofele <i>woredas</i>	Market surplus vegetables produced at FTCs, schools and households and translate income into nutrition.
	18 Oct.2012	22 Oct.2012	Dendi, Ambo, Guduru, Horo, Jima Geneti, Wayu Tuka, Guto Guda, Toke kutaye <i>woredas</i>	- Strictly adhere to project criteria when selecting FTCs, schools, and household beneficiaries. -Start community cooking demonstrations.
	23 Oct. 2012	26 Oct. 2012	Wonberma, Jabitana, Ankasha and Semen Achefer <i>woredas</i> , MASHAV nursery, agricultural research Institute	-Check readiness of beneficiary before delivering livestock. -Include male sheep for breeding. -Provide poultry with full package. -Promote consumption of sheep and goats milk.
	11 Dec. 2012	15 Dec. 2012	Gorche, Hawassa <i>woredas</i>	Use government AI service for improved breeding of the heifers
	28 Feb. 2013	29 Feb. 2013	Enemor and Gorche <i>woredas</i>	-Seek AI services for livestock. -Forage planting materials for animals.
	14 May 2013	15 May 2013	Endamehoni <i>Woreda</i>	Document project impact, lessons-learned and success stories.
	17 June 2013	26 June 2013	Decha, Chena, Dhidessa, Badale, Yem, Enemor Ener, Misrak Azernet Berber <i>woredas</i>	-First treat livestock with antibiotics and anti-parasitic medicine and then vaccinations two weeks later. -Continue promoting diet diversity for household beneficiaries.
	30 July 2013	3 Aug. 2013	Dangla, Ankasha, Jabitenan and Wonberma <i>woredas</i>	Facilitate homestead training using project guidelines and consider beneficiary capacity when providing productive livestock.
Pre-Service Nutrition Education	20 Feb 2013	22 Feb 2013	Alage TVET, Hawassa University agriculture college, Hawassa and Shashemene health sciences colleges	-Strengthen supervision in PSE institutions. -Involve decision makers in the integration of nutrition into core competencies. -Plan additional training on effective teaching skills for colleges and universities.

Management and Operations	14 Jan. 2013 8 July 2013	6 Feb. 2013 26 July 2013	Sub-offices in Amhara, Oromia, SNNPR and Tigray	ENGINE senior management conducted a joint program, compliance and financial monitoring visits. The team addressed several programmatic, staffing and financial issues.
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Program Management

Staff Recruitment

In Year II, ENGINE hired **eight** additional zonal staff coordinators scale-up the project's direct nutrition and NSA activities from 41 to 83 *woredas*. Research assistants were also recruited to launch the OR studies as well as SBCC regional coordinators to roll-out the radio talk show and community conversation (CC) activities. ENGINE has filled all key personnel positions except the senior nutrition and HIV advisor who resigned in the third quarter. ENGINE is actively recruiting for the replacement. In the fourth quarter, the project succeeded in hired a highly qualified SBCC manager after four rounds of interviews and rapidly replaced the vacant monitoring and evaluation (M&E) advisor position.

Staff management

In Year II, ENGINE conducted three quarterly review meetings with regional coordinators and technical advisors to strengthen and accelerate field-level implementation and increase budget utilization (January 10-11, April 29-30, and August 1). As a result, all five sub-offices submitted revised budgets and re-programmed activity plans to increase spending.

SC organized an all-staff participatory review and planning workshop from August 14-16, 2013 to create a shared project vision among the entire ENGINE team; to review the Year II performance; and to develop the Year III work plan. ENGINE national, regional and field staff, all sub-primes and the USAID Agreements Officer's Representative (AOR) attended the workshop. The work plan was the outcome of the meeting. ENGINE also conducted a multi-sector review meeting on September 2, 2013 to solicit valuable input from government officials and technical experts with direct influence over nutrition programming in the various sectors. Participants discussed recommendations to improve project implementation, which were incorporated into the Year III work plan.

To enhance project documentation and build staff capacity, ENGINE conducted a report writing workshop for 12 technical advisors and 15 regional team members who contribute to the quarterly reporting process. SC facilitators presented USAID comments on the third quarter report and participants discussed in small groups how to strengthen future donor reporting. Following the workshop, the team developed an improved, streamlined template that was used to collect and consolidate data for the annual report.

Sub-grantee management

ENGINE continued its regular bi-weekly staff meetings to discuss progress toward completing planned activities as outlined in the sub-grantee Year II work plans. ENGINE reviewed and provided feedback on all sub-grantee deliverables, coordinated TA visits, and monitored sub-grantee narrative and financial reports to ensure compliance with USAID rules and regulations.

ENGINE conducted two quarterly meetings with sub-grantees (December 27, 2012 and May 16, 2013) with the objective of reviewing the project performance and budget utilization. The consultations helped to re-program the work plan to improve project implementation and increase the burn rate to reduce the pipeline. The sub-primes also participated in the Year II project review and Year III work planning retreat in August 2013.

Despite repeated negotiations, JHU-CCP was not able to deliver the expected agreed upon results with acceptable quality and timeliness, especially the formative research. Because of this, SC partially terminated the JHU-CCP sub-agreement as of June 19, 2013. JHU-CCP was given 60 days to close-out and submit their work plan and budget according to their revised scope of work. This decision was communicated to USAID. To ensure a smooth hand-over, SC developed a transition plan and has taken over most of the SBCC responsibilities with international technical support from The Manoff Group (see SBCC sections in IR 2.2 and IR 3.1).

Technical Assistance (TA)

In Year II, ENGINE received TA from Save the Children-US, JHU-CCP, LOL, TU and VI in formative research, SBCC, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), nutrition, report writing, rapid market and economic assessments, feasibility of micro-insurance for livestock, monitoring livelihood activities and OR.

Start-up Activities

In Year II, the project expanded from 41 to 83 target *woredas*. ENGINE launched project activities and planning workshops in 42 new AGP *woredas* in the four regions as shown in Table I below.

Table I: Distribution of Year II *woredas*

Region	AGP <i>woredas</i> launched in quarter I and II	Non-AGP <i>woredas</i> selected in quarter III
Oromia	17	
Amhara	11	
Tigray	4	
SNNP	10	
Total	42	17

ENGINE, in consultation with the regional teams, GRAD and GOAL, proposed 17 non-AGP *woredas* to USAID and OFDA that were accepted. USAID then sent letters to the FMoH and FMoA requesting permission for ENGINE to expand to non-AGP *woredas* as part of the USAID Forward Initiative, which is pending approval. In the meantime, ENGINE developed concept papers to begin implementation with GRAD and GOAL.

Partnership and multi-sector coordination

ENGINE's Chief of Party (COP) participated in the USAID-sponsored Nutrition/Agriculture Global Learning and Evidence Event (N-GLEE) in Uganda from December 9-13, 2012 and presented on nutrition-sensitive SBCC. Following the meeting, ENGINE used the standard agriculture-nutrition pathway (presented at N-GLEE) as an innovative tool to reveal the untapped nutrition potential of FtF projects in Ethiopia. This pathway – adapted from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) – shows how agriculture can positively impact the nutritional status of children and women.

Following the N-GLEE meeting, ENGINE established a nutrition TWG to coordinate FtF nutrition activities and support integration of nutrition into other FtF projects. ENGINE developed a ToR for the nutrition TWG and chaired three meetings in Year II. The TWG was instrumental in avoiding duplication of project efforts, in identifying opportunities for collaboration, sharing technical expertise and assisting other projects to overcome challenges. For example, ENGINE provided TA for GRAD in the design of its baseline survey to assess nutritional outcomes (see **Table 2**). Additionally, through the TWG and independently, ENGINE supported USAID in planning and facilitating the first nutrition-focused FtF workshop to highlight the importance of nutrition and how it can be streamlined into FtF resilience and value chains projects. Furthermore, ENGINE has started rolling out the FtF TWG partnership at the regional level through joint FtF field visits and consultative meetings. ENGINE will continue to strengthen regional FtF partnerships through quarterly coordination meetings in all four regions.

In addition to high-level FtF workshops, ENGINE participated in The International Congress on Nutrition – the major nutrition conference held every four years. This year in Granada, Spain, more than 4,000 delegates from 120 countries attended the 5-day meeting. On Wednesday, September 18th, SPRING hosted a Parallel Symposium on *Past and Current Experiences in Leveraging Multiple Program and Partner Platforms to Scale-Up Nutrition Interventions*. ENGINE COP was a featured presenter in this session chaired by the Nutrition Advisor for the USAID Global Health Bureau. His extremely well-received presentation was: “Building capacity across multiple systems to enhance nutrition outcomes: The ENGINE Project’s approach to capacity building in Ethiopia.” The session was attended by more than two hundred delegates.

The table below highlights some of ENGINE’s partnership activities over the past year.

Table 2: Collaborative Activities with FtF and health and nutrition partners

FtF Partners	Collaborative Activities
AMDe, GRAD, LMD & PRIME	ENGINE established a TWG to coordinate FtF nutrition activities and support integration of nutrition into other FtF projects. ENGINE developed a ToR for this nutrition coordination platform and chaired three meetings. ENGINE will invite other FtF partners such as MASHAV to be a part of the TWG next quarter.
AMDe Agricultural Growth Program-Agribusiness and Market Development Project in Ethiopia	ENGINE and AMDe mapped their geographic overlap, type and level of interventions, and shared existing training manuals. ENGINE also presented on fortification at the AMDe wheat value chain food fortification workshop.
GRAD Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development	ENGINE provided TA to GRAD on the design of their baseline survey, nutrition indicators and training of data collectors. A joint field trip was also conducted with USAID to identify areas of collaboration and share lessons-learned.
LMD Livestock Marketing Development	ENGINE and LMD met quarterly to discuss potential areas of collaboration at the national regional and agribusiness level. ENGINE shared baseline and technical

	materials with LMD and both shared work plans to synergize efforts.
PRIME Pastoralist Resilience Improvement and Market Expansion	ENGINE met with PRIME prior to their Year III work plan retreat to discuss implementation plans including SBCC approaches (mass media). ENGINE also shared the project's MIYCN and nutrition-sensitive agriculture training manuals.
CIAFS Capacity to Improve Agriculture and Food Security	ENGINE prepared and a nutrition module that was included in the CIAFS leadership training for federal and regional policymakers and facilitated this session for program managers. CIAFS provided the ENGINE M&E team with training on the FTF monitoring system. ENGINE assisted CIAFS in finalizing the proceedings nutrition FtF meeting.
MASHAV	MASHAV trained regional livelihood and nutrition officers in a five-day nursery management workshop.
Peace Corps	ENGINE facilitated nutrition orientation sessions at pre-service trainings for health volunteers. Peace Corps invited ENGINE to participate in the permagarden training for environmental health volunteers in March 2013.
FANTA-3 Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project	ENGINE collaborated with FANTA-3 to define roles and responsibilities for Year II and Year III work plans in regard to nutrition advocacy (PROFILES), quality of nutrition services and pre-service. ENGINE assisted FANTA-3 in conducting PROFILES and advocacy workshops and analyzing the results for dissemination.
IFHP Integrated Family Health Program	ENGINE and IFHP participated in joint field trips in Amhara and Tigray to highlight project activities for potential donors and explore opportunities to strengthen WASH interventions and strengthen partnerships. ENGINE presented its project status at the IFHP-led health partners' quarterly coordination forum.
UNICEF	ENGINE collaborated with UNICEF in mapping existing nutrition materials, discussing ways to integrate WASH into nutrition and exploring partnership modalities in the 17 new woredas. ENGINE's COP also met with the UNICEF Chief of Nutrition to expedite the finalization of the NNP and advocate for the revised NNP multi-sector coordination mechanism. In Oromia Region, ENGINE supported zonal and regional-level review meetings that emphasized nutrition program performance. This was facilitated with UNICEF in Arsi zone.

IR I: Capacity for and institutionalization of nutrition programs and policies

IR I.1: Strengthened policy environment

Planned activities:

- Support national nutrition multi-sector coordination mechanisms
- Organize a learning exchange field visit for effective multi-sector coordination for members of the National Nutrition Coordination Body (NNCB)
- Support the revision and launch of revised National Nutrition Program (NNP)
- Work with Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance III Project (FANTA-3) and the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) and other partners to develop nutrition advocacy strategy
- Organize consultative multi-sector workshop at national level
- Support development and revision of nutrition policies, guidelines and standards

Support the National Food Fortification Program
Develop Blended Nutrition training material for health workers

Accomplishments

Strategy I.I.I: Strengthen existing nutrition multi-sector coordination

Support nutrition multi-sector coordination mechanisms

In Year II, ENGINE, with partners, supported the development of a revised National Nutrition Coordination Body (NNCB) structure, the main mechanism for leadership, policy decisions and coordination of NNP. In quarter III, ENGINE supported two consultative multi-sector workshops at the national level. ENGINE provided technical and financial assistance to FMoH in facilitating the NNCB meeting held on May 29, 2013. H.E. Dr Kebede Worku, State Minister for Health, chaired the meeting. Other sector state ministers and delegates were in attendance. During this meeting, NNCB endorsed the revised multi-sectoral NNP and the ToR for NNCB (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Members of the NNCB after endorsing the NNP and NNCB ToR. May 29, 2013

ENGINE also facilitated the National Nutrition Technical Committee (NNTC) meeting held on May 24, 2013, which was attended by high-level experts and directors of all relevant sectors of the NNP and development partners. The final draft of the NNP was reviewed and the ToR of NNCB was amended based on NNCB comments. ENGINE, as a member of the NNP steering committee, supported the drafting of an annual work plan for the NNCB and NNTC. The plan was discussed during the NNTC meeting held on September 26, 2013. Further discussions regarding the NNTC draft annual work plan will take place in the upcoming meeting to be held in October 2013.

In its role as a member of the NNP national steering committee, ENGINE has been working with FMoH and other partners in facilitating regional dissemination of NNP and knowledge-sharing workshops, establishing a Regional Nutrition Coordination Body (RNCB) and a Regional Nutrition Technical Committee (RNTC). The regional results of this are as follows:

Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's (SNNP) Region. ENGINE has provided technical support for the Regional Health Bureau (RHB) in the preparation of NNP regional

dissemination and become a member of the RNTC by representing nutrition partners in the region. The region will launch the NNP on October 19, 2013. ENGINE also supported the formation of a nutrition coordination body in one zone and nine *woredas* using the existing structure, which will be revised after launching the NNP at regional level.

Oromia. ENGINE supported the establishment of nutrition multi-sectoral coordination and technical committees in four zones and seven *woredas*. The coordination body consisted of experts from administration, agriculture, health, women and child affairs and education sectors, as well as the Oromo People's Democratic Organization. This will be further modified after the region established its RNCB, which will give guidance on zonal and *woreda* level multi-sectoral coordination.

Tigray. The regional health bureau has an established nutrition coordination, technical and ad-hoc committees to coordinate nutrition specific and emergency nutrition. ENGINE is a member of the regional nutrition technical and ad-hoc committees. However, there is no multi-sectoral platform at the regional level. The ENGINE regional team has been working with RHB to disseminate the NNP and establish a RNCB on October 25, 2013. ENGINE supported the establishment of a *woreda* level technical committee to coordinate nutrition activities in four *woredas*.

Organize a learning exchange field visit for effective multi-sector coordination for members of the National Nutrition Coordination Body (NNCB)

ENGINE postponed the NNCB experience exchange field visit because of delayed finalization of revised NNP approval. As the NNCB has established a NNP coordinating body, ENGINE will organize the field visit, tentatively in Year III.

Develop nutrition advocacy strategy

During the first quarter, ENGINE coordinated with the FMoH, Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA-3) project and other partners to develop a nutrition advocacy strategy aimed at reducing child malnutrition using the revised PROFILES approach (data-based nutrition advocacy and policy development methodology). ENGINE facilitated and participated in the multi-stakeholder workshops held to estimate the benefits and costs of a comprehensive nutrition program, as well as to implement the advocacy plan for Ethiopia.

In the second quarter, ENGINE participated in the PROFILES (2012-2015) preliminary results and nutrition advocacy debriefing workshop. ENGINE, along with nutrition partners and the FMoH, helped incorporate nutrition advocacy into the NNP and identified nutrition advocacy materials to be used by various stakeholders for nutrition programming. FANTA-3 is presently finalizing the advocacy work with the FMoH, and will hand over the responsibility of rolling out to ENGINE. However, this activity was not yet carried out by ENGINE due to delay from FANTA-3 in finalizing the approval of the plan by FMoH. ENGINE will start this activity as soon as approved by FMoH.

In the first quarter of Year II, ENGINE participated in the development of key nutrition advocacy messages for the Africa Day of Food and Nutrition Security (ADFNS) meeting and presented its major activities highlighting the importance of the “first 1,000 days” at the Scaling-up Nutrition (SUN) side event. Flyers, ENGINE success stories and a roll-up banner that contained advocacy messages were displayed during the event.

Strategy 1.1.2: Support development and revision of nutrition policies, guidelines and standards

Support the revision and launch of revised NNP

In Year II, the major policy level achievement of ENGINE was the finalization and launch of the revised multi-sectoral and costed NNP. ENGINE was instrumental in providing technical and financial support to the revision, endorsement and launch of the NNP. ENGINE provided its support through strategic a National Steering Committee and the engagement of six of the project's experts in different NNP working groups.

The revised NNP was launched nationally on June 24, 2013 in the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister (PM), the Education Minister, the First Lady, ministers, ambassadors, donors, researchers and civil societies. The Deputy PM provided guidance to the sectors on NNP implementation and handed over the NNP document to delegates from each sector (Figure 2). ENGINE shared its field experiences in implementing nutrition sensitive agriculture, and also presented seven research and survey results.

"The National Nutrition Program needs the coordinated effort of different sectors such as health, agriculture, water, and education, and working with development partners,"
Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Demeke Mekonnen.

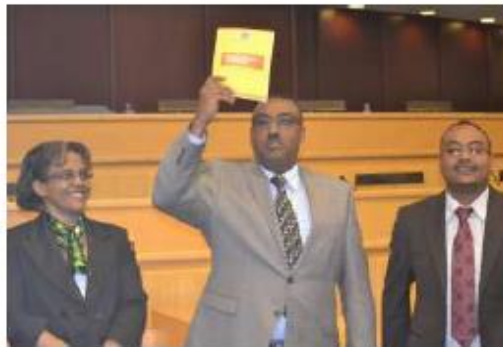


Figure 2: First lady, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of health launching the NNP.

Support the National Food Fortification Program

In the first quarter, ENGINE facilitated and coordinated the national food fortification steering committee and subgroup meetings. In the second quarter, ENGINE – with the FMOH, Micronutrient Initiative (MI) and Addis Ababa University Center for Food Science and Nutrition – supported and facilitated multi-sector food fortification training in February 2013 for 34 participants. ENGINE participated in the preparation of the multi-sector food fortification training modules for policymakers and advisors. In addition, ENGINE participated in the national Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) week, which was held in March 2013 with the objective of creating awareness about the importance of consuming iodized salt. The event was officially celebrated on March 7, 2013 in the presence of H.E. Dr. Kesseberhan Admassu, Minister of Health. During the event, IDD law enforcement and the way forward were discussed.

During the second quarter, ENGINE conducted an iodized salt sensitization workshop in collaboration with *woreda* administrative bodies in Womberma *woreda*, Amhara region, which has the highest goiter rate in West Gojjam zone. A total of 66 *woreda* and *kebele* leaders and salt distributors participated in the workshop. The workshop concluded with the establishment of *woreda* multi-sector coordination and development of ToR, which clearly stipulate the roles and

responsibilities of each sector. The *woreda* administrative office will take a leadership role in guiding and reviewing the performance of the multi-sector coordination activities.

Development of Blended Nutrition training material for health workers

During the first quarter, ENGINE took the lead in establishing the ‘blended nutrition training material development for the health workers’ working group. The aim of the TWG is to harmonize nutrition training materials; strengthen the in-service nutrition training and the nutrition program delivery at the community level; promote facility-based trainings; and reduce training costs. In the second quarter, the TWG finalized the draft ToR and a plan of action, and identified sub-group leaders for each component of the training manual. In the third quarter, ENGINE facilitated a two-day consultative workshop on ‘Integrated blended nutrition learning module development for health workers’, which was organized by FMoH with the technical support of Jhpiego. A total of 22 participants from FMoH, partners and five local universities attended the workshop. The participants agreed on the outline and components of the module, and reached a consensus on the module having five thematic areas⁵. ENGINE is leading two thematic areas: Maternal, adolescent, infant and young child nutrition (MAIYCN) and management of acute malnutrition sub-groups. ENGINE submitted a draft outline of the MAIYCN thematic area to FMoH and the TWG. The material will be finalized in Year III because the FMoH included it in its FY 2013/2014 plan.

Support the national Micronutrient Intervention guidelines revision

In Year II, FMoH initiated revision of the national micronutrient guidelines, which were initially developed nearly a decade ago. Prior to the revision process, a steering committee was established to identify any gaps. The committee has agreed to consider nutrition intervention areas such as zinc, food fortification, food diversification and evidence-based public health approaches to control micronutrient deficiencies that were not addressed in the previous version of the micronutrient guidelines. A sub-committee was then established to undertake revision of different thematic areas. Accordingly, in this reporting period, two ENGINE senior advisors assigned to the food fortification and salt iodization (Iodine) thematic areas finalized their revisions and submitted the first draft to FMoH for review and approval.

Support national micronutrient survey

FMoH/EHNRI invited ENGINE to support the national micronutrients (iodine, vitamin A, iron and zinc) survey in Ethiopia. ENGINE committed funds for the survey and provided technical assistance in developing the tools. ENHRI planned to start data collection in September 2013, but it was postponed because of procurement delays.

International Micronutrient Forum

Under the leadership of EHNRI and the MI, the third international micronutrient forum conference is planned to be held in Ethiopia, in June 2014. ENGINE participated in three steering committee meetings to organize the conference, and establish sub-committees for logistics, fundraising, and communication and program management. ENGINE is a member of all sub-committees and also nominated to chair the Micronutrient Forum Local Steering committee – fund raising sub-group committees. The committees have developed ToRs to formally start addressing their respective responsibilities.

⁵ Micronutrient intervention; management of acute malnutrition; maternal, adolescent, infant and young child nutrition (MAIYCN), nutrition and infection; nutrition and lifestyle related non-communicable diseases; and nutrition program management.

Health Sector Development Program review

In its capacity as nutrition partner for FMOH, ENGINE participated in the Health Sector Development Program (HSDP) IV midterm review, where health and nutrition data were collected from regions, health facilities and communities to assess the performance of HSDP. FMOH and its partners will use the report to assess achievements and challenges, as well as ways to improve HSDP implementation.

Support other national nutrition initiatives

ENGINE facilitated and supported a World Breastfeeding Week celebration, which was held in August 2013 with the objective of creating awareness about the importance of breast-feeding in Ethiopia. This event was attended by FMOH officials and delegates from partner organizations.

IR 1.2: Strengthened pre-service and in-service nutrition training for health care agents

Planned activities:

- Conduct Standard-Based Management and Recognition (SBM-R) II workshops
- Integrate nutrition into the curricula for health and agriculture institutions
- Facilitate nutrition technical update training for selected institutions
- Organize nutrition forums for health and agriculture graduates
- Provide effective teaching skills training to agriculture TVET instructors
- Establish academic center of excellence for nutrition education
- Conduct nutrition training for program managers

Accomplishments

Strategy 1.2.1: Pre-service education (PSE) for health care providers and agricultural agents strengthened

Implement performance and quality improvement process to strengthen nutrition education

The aim of the PSE component of ENGINE is to improve the quality of pre-service nutrition education by strengthening the nutrition curriculum, enhancing facility capacity in instructional design and creating an enabling environment for nutrition education. In Year I, ENGINE introduced the SBM-R process at 12 higher institutions⁶ and continued supporting these institutions in Year II using the SBM-R tool to monitor the quality of nutrition education in five areas – classroom instruction, clinical practice, student assessment (e.g., exams), infrastructure (e.g., nutrition labs) and management.

⁶ The 12 target institutions include four universities (Jimma, Hawassa, Gondar, Mekelle), four regional health science colleges (Hawassa, Shashemene, Bahir Dar, Araya Kahu (Axum) and four agricultural TVET colleges (Dilla, Alage, Bure and Shire).

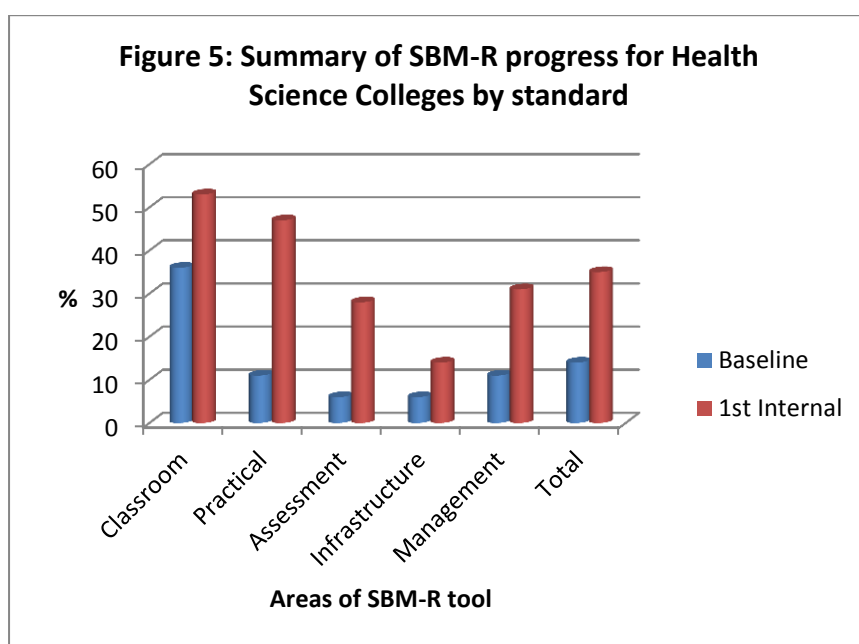
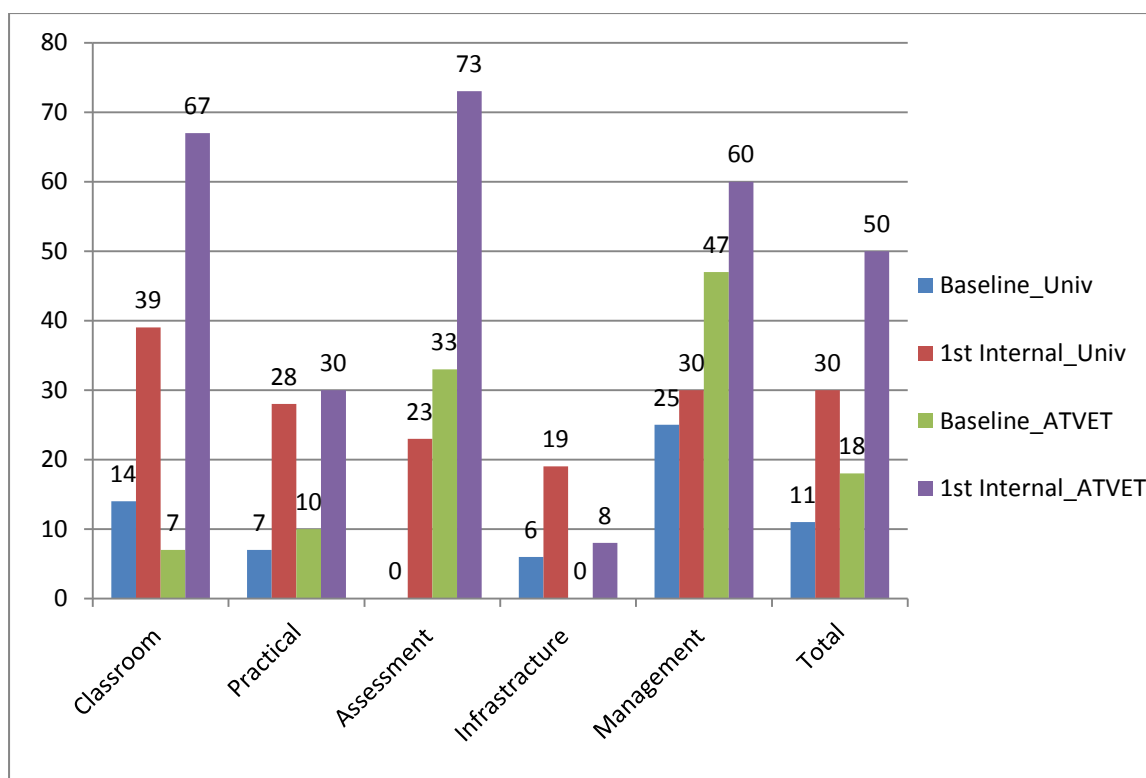
In Year II, all 12 institutions conducted their first internal monitoring assessment to measure progress from baseline to 10 months of implementation. Table 3 and figures 3-5 below demonstrate progress in the SBM-R process since the baseline. In Year II, the ENGINE PSE team facilitated SBM-R Module II⁷ workshops to bolster quality improvement efforts and promote networking among institutions to share best practices, challenges and lessons learned in the course of implementation.

Improvement in infrastructure was slow compared to the other four areas of SBM-R. While ENGINE encourages institutions to leverage and mobilize local resources, the project also procured skills lab materials, audiovisual equipment and technical reference books to narrow the gap in infrastructure. The donation was made during ENGINE's pre-service education review meeting held on September 30, 2013. ENGINE partners, stakeholders and participating institutions discussed the project's pre-service accomplishments since the launch of the project in September 2011 and exchanged ideas for strengthening future activities based on lessons-learned.

<p>Table 3: Summary of Qualitative Improvements in 12 Target Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom: Nutrition instructors have started preparing and using session plans; a variety of interactive methods are being used such as case studies, role plays, large and small group discussions. • Practical: Some institutions have started instructing students in clinical practice at the nutrition skills lab, in health facilities and in community placements. • Assessment: Instructors are now preparing tests according to learning domains (knowledge, skills and attitudes), exams are assessed fairly, various exam modalities are used, exams are competency-based and administered properly. • Infrastructure: Nutrition corners have been revitalized and institutions have started leveraging resources for equipment and nutrition reference materials. • Management: SBM-R has become a fixed agenda item on the academic commission meetings at some of the institutions, and the tool has assisted with resource mobilization from regional and zonal health bureaus.

Figure 3-4: Summary of SBM-R progress for Universities and ATVET colleges by standards.

⁷ The SBM-R module II workshop is the direct continuation of the SBM-R module I training. The first module focuses on starting the SBM-R process, while module II focuses on strengthening the SBM-R process.



Integrate nutrition into curricula for health and agriculture institutions

Strengthening nutrition PSE through curricula revision and standardization is one of the expected results of ENGINE. The PSE team developed nutrition core competencies for selected health and agriculture cadres, and held a nutrition core competencies review workshop for faculty to review and finalize the documents. ENGINE conducted five on-site and two off-site content integration

workshops at the 12 institutions. By the end of the sessions, participants (81 = 65 male, 16 female) had revised 58 different nutrition syllabi.

To standardize the content and delivery of integrated nutrition courses across institutions, ENGINE organized a two-day workshop for universities and health science colleges.⁸ Participants harmonized the standardized nutrition syllabi for their teaching methodologies, assessment strategies and resource materials. At the workshop, 45 (34 male, 11 female) instructors harmonized 20 nutrition modules/courses. Some institutions have already started using the integrated nutrition syllabi for teaching. Gondar and Mekelle Universities incorporated nutrition into a diagnosis tool to identify and prioritize problems in the community, and nutrition was added as a weekly seminar topic for health science students enrolled in a community-based training program. In addition to pre-service, ENGINE used the nutrition core competencies to shape the national in-service blended integrated nutrition learning module for health facility workers. The FMOH referred to this important PSE document in its decision-making on desired competencies for target audience for the blended health worker training package.

Facilitate nutrition technical update training

One of the gaps identified by the preliminary Pre-Service Education (PSE) baseline assessment was the absence of nutrition technical updates for health science and agriculture instructors. As a result, ENGINE organized nutrition technical training to build the capacity of nutrition course instructors. The technical updates covered the basics of human nutrition, the role of key sectors in nutrition interventions per the revised NNP, and national multi-sector interventions being implemented to address nutrition challenges. A total of 69 (14 female, 55 male) instructors from all 12 institutions were trained in three rounds. Meanwhile, to address the gaps in the shortage of reference materials, ENGINE collected soft copies of the national nutrition strategy, nutrition guidelines and other essential nutrition reference materials and provided them to institutions. These reference materials were reprinted and will be distributed next quarter.

Organize nutrition forums for health and agriculture graduates

In Year II, ENGINE conducted half-day nutrition forums for 2,307 (1,218 male, 1089 female) graduating students and staff at eight institutions. The workshops focused on the magnitude of malnutrition in Ethiopia and interventions to address it, as well as the importance of multi-sector collaboration based on the revised NNP. The forums were highly interactive and sensitized the graduating students to the importance of translating nutrition into income, rather than only on maximizing the production and sale of food products. The forums enabled graduates to understand key nutrition challenges and the need to advocate for multi-sector coordination at all levels of the health and agriculture extension programs.

Provide effective teaching skills training

In Year II, ENGINE PSE provided five Effective Teaching Skills (ETS) courses for agriculture TVET college instructors⁹ to respond to a gap in instructional teaching skills observed during the baseline assessment. A total of 154 instructors (138 males & 16 females) participated in the ETS trainings, where they acquired the skills and tools to effectively facilitate classroom instruction, student

⁸ ATVET colleges integrated and harmonized the nutrition content of relevant courses during off-site workshops.

⁹ Most of the nutrition instructors from health science colleges and universities took the ETS training in September 2012.

assessments and practical activities. ETS contributed significantly to improving the overall quality of education at the colleges. In fact, ETS was so popular that some colleges cascaded the training at their own cost to other departments outside of plant and animal science. In addition, the following improvements were documented as outcomes of ETS trainings: (1) Improved classroom instruction (course syllabi are now provided at the beginning of courses, session plans are consistently developed by instructors and there is a shift from didactic teaching style to interactive facilitation); (2) Increased practical instruction (nutrition lab corners have been established in nursing and midwifery departments and learning guides are available for students in nutrition skills labs); and (3) A more rigorous assessment approach has been established (exam committees are revitalized in some institutions and exam questions checked for validity).

Establish academic center of excellence for nutrition

ENGINE has made significant strides toward establishing a CoE for nutrition in one of the four project-supported universities. ENGINE, in collaboration with MoH, established a CoE ToR and committee composed of MoH, MoE, EHNRI and ENGINE (Jhpiego and SC). A request for proposals was then sent to the four universities, after which three submitted proposals. Based on established criteria, the CoE committee selected the School of Human Nutrition Food Science and Technology, Hawassa University, for the CoE. Following the decision, ENHRI raised a concern that the CoE had an overlapping mandate with EHNRI. Subsequently the purpose of the center was harmonized with ENHRI and its activities and the name was changed to 'Academic CoE for Nutrition' to clearly distinguish it from EHNRI and avoid any overlap. From September 23-25, 2013, the CoE committee conducted a validation visit to Hawassa University to verify the existence of necessary staff and infrastructure to be a CoE and provided direction in finalizing the COE three-year activity plan. Hawassa University successfully defended its proposal and demonstrated its commitment and capacity to fulfill the academic CoE requirements for nutrition.

Strategy 1.2.2. In-service capacity-building for program managers and existing health care providers (health officers, nurses, doctors)

Conduct nutrition training for program managers

In Year II, ENGINE developed an integrated training package (reference manual, facilitator and participant guide) on nutrition program planning and supervision for health and agriculture program managers that includes cross-cutting sessions on WASH and gender. The package was pilot tested and finalized after incorporating feedback from participants and facilitators. From August 19-23, ENGINE conducted the first round of Training of Trainers (ToT) for 22 regional trainers (7 female, 15 male) from the four target regions (See Strategy 2.1.2). Regional trainers then cascaded the training for 71 (3 female, 68 male) health and agriculture program managers from 18 *woredas* of West Oromia. Next quarter, the training package will be roll-out to all the regions.

IR 2: Quality and delivery of nutrition and health care services improved

Planned activities:

- Develop quality improvement (QI) model, QI tools and design the methodology for nutrition services
- Promote coaching and mentoring across members of the health delivery service
- Support quality of project implementation through supportive supervision
- Provide child health and nutrition training for frontline health and agriculture workers
- Develop community conversations (CC) manual and conduct training
- Link with existing programs and partners
- Support CHD implementation

Accomplishments

IR 2.1: Quality of nutrition services strengthened

Strategy 2.1.1: Facilitate integration of quality improvement processes with Government of Ethiopia (GoE) coordination entities, health facilities and communities

Develop quality improvement (QI) model, QI tools, design the methodology and start data collection for nutrition services

ENGINE defined the minimum package of quality nutrition services for community, health posts (HPs) and health centers (HCs). Based on this framework, ENGINE developed QI tools and the sampling methodology to assess the status of service quality, best practices and opportunities and identify key barriers in the provision of health and nutrition services at community and health facility levels. A consulting firm hired by ENGINE conducted the QI assessment at 24 health facilities in eight selected *woredas* in the four regions. Preliminary findings were presented at the ENGINE annual review meeting. The final results are being reviewed and will be used to develop a QI road map to integrate QI into nutrition services in Year III.

Promote coaching and mentoring across members of the health delivery service



Figure 6: Zonal Coordinator with HW worker on mentoring visit, SNNP Region

In Year II, ENGINE zonal coordinators mentored a total of 941 HWs and 237 HEWs in 59 ENGINE target *woredas* of Amhara, Oromia SNNP and Tigray Regions (Table 4). The mentoring was conducted using a detailed observation checklist to determine if HW and HEWs were providing quality MIYCN counseling. During mentorship, zonal coordinators demonstrated optimal counseling techniques to transfer skills. Following the visits, the zonal coordinators helped HWs and HEWs to develop follow-up action plans.

Table 4: HWs and HEWs mentored and health facilities reached by region

Region	No. of woredas	HCs	HWs			HPs	HEWs			Total
			Male	Female	Total		Male	Female	Total	
Amhara	11	24	-	-	37	-	-	-	-	37 ¹⁰
Oromia	34	64	288	534	822	60	-	112	112	934
SNNPR	9	32	32	50	82	24	54	43	97	179
Tigray	5	11	-	-	-	6	9	19	28	28
Total	59	131	320	584	941	90	63	174	237	1,178

Support quality of project implementation through supportive supervision



Figure 7: Joint SS visit, SNNP Region

In Year II, in collaboration with woreda and zonal health offices, ENGINE conducted joint supportive supervision to HFs and reached 109 percent¹¹ of HCs (453/416) and 35 percent of HPs (714/2061) in the four regions (Table 5). During the supervision, 491 home visits were also made to monitor behavior change at the household level. The joint supervision aimed to assess improvements in delivery of nutrition and health services provided by HWs and HEWs and to address challenges. Using a supportive supervisory checklist, the teams provided on-site feedback and developed action plans to address gaps.

Making zinc accessible: an example of how ENGINE's supportive supervision and follow-up made a difference

During supportive supervision in Tigray region, ENGINE found excess zinc stored in one facility, while others in the catchment area were facing chronic shortages. The team contacted the woreda health office to address the issue. During the next follow-up visit, ENGINE observed that zinc had since been equitably distributed to the health facilities to meet the needs of the community. Similarly, during a visit to a HC in the southern zone of Tigray, staff found that mothers were being asked to pay for zinc to treat childhood diarrhea, when it was supposed be free-of-charge. ENGINE alerted the woreda health office to take corrective action. The next follow-up visit verified that mothers were receiving free zinc treatment.

Table 5: Health facility joint supportive supervisions by regions

Region	Health centers visited	Health posts visited	Households visited
Amhara	81	147	149
Oromia	197	308	99
SNNP	121	206	119
Tigray	54	53	124
Grand total	453	714	491

¹⁰ In Amhara mentorship is not distinguished from supervision during reporting.

¹¹ Some HCs are visited more than once.

As a result of supportive supervision, the project achieved the following major outcomes: ENGINE-trained HWs oriented untrained HWs in their catchment health facilities; trained HWs and HEWs screened and counseled 93,006 mothers for improved dietary practices during ANC and postnatal visits. They also screened 71, 295 children visiting under-5 clinics, treated 184 children with SAM, and prescribed zinc and ORS for 1,679 children with diarrhea; and trained HEWs cascaded training to 42,111 HDA members. HWs and HEWs also reached 20,386 community members with practical nutrition cooking demonstrations. These achievements were pivotal in supporting the government's transition from child health days (CHD) to routine facility-based nutrition service delivery.

Strategy 2.1.2: Build capacity of health facility and frontline workers to provide high quality services

Provide child health and nutrition training for frontline health and agriculture workers

In Year II, ENGINE trained a total of 7,795 staff (health and agriculture) in health and nutrition, which covered MAIYCN; integrated refresher training (IRT); community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM); nutrition assessment and counseling support; NSA; and use of iodine test kits.¹² (Table 6)

Table 6: Total number of people trained in child health and nutrition by region

Name of Regions	All health and nutrition training		
	M	F	Total
Amhara	1,166	416	1,582
Oromia	1,897	1,329	3,226
SNNP	1,646	988	2,634
Tigray	219	134	353
Total	4,928	2,867	7,795

Train HWs in MAIYCN

In Year II, ENGINE provided MAIYCN TOT for 60 regional HWs who cascaded the training to 1,369 HWs. As a result of the training, 15,731 HDAs were mentored on MAIYCN; 22,758 caregivers counselled; 369 cooking sessions carried out; and 20,761 home visits conducted.



¹² ENGINE supported iodine salt promotion and iodine test kit skills training in SNNP and Amhara Regions where iodine deficiency is prevalent. A total of 514 participants (158 Female and 356 male) participated.

Figure 8: MAIYCN counseling and cooking demonstration during MAIYCN training, Amhara

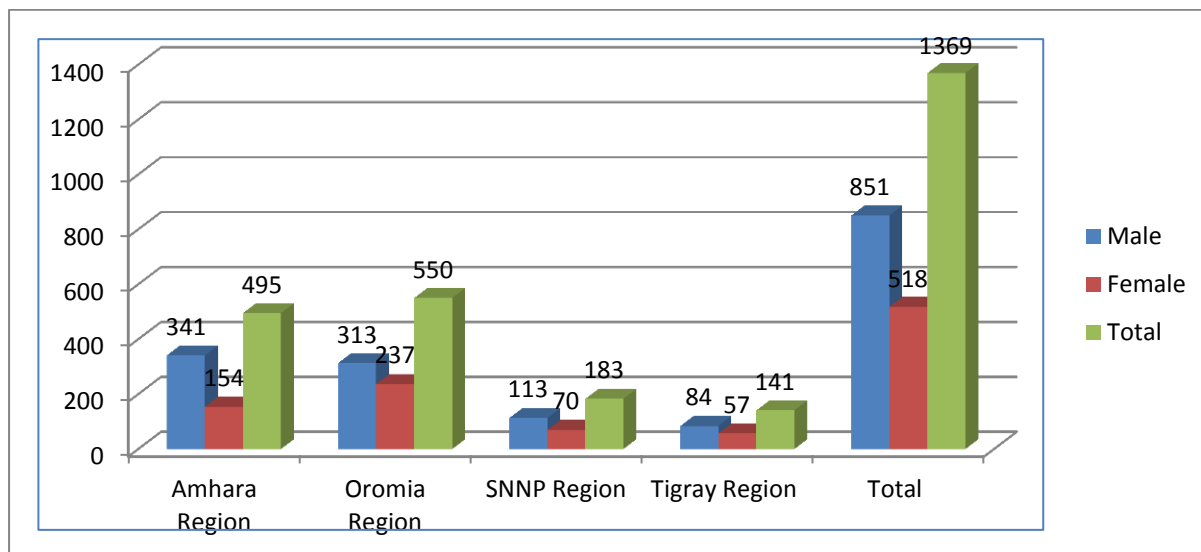


Figure 9: Number of HWs trained in MAIYCN by region, cumulative annual

Train HIV/AIDS Mother Support Groups (MSG) on infant feeding in the context of HIV

In Year II, ENGINE supported a training of 30 MSG facilitators (4 female and 26 male) in SNNP. The training equipped MSG facilitators with the skills to counsel mothers on infant feeding in the context of HIV and how to effectively integrate nutrition into HIV/AIDS services. ENGINE made follow-up visits to seven MSGs that had been trained by ENGINE in Year I. The visits found that MSGs are providing accurate nutrition counseling for HIV positive pregnant and lactating mothers and properly registering the counseling data. MSGs, trained by ENGINE, have conducted 485 nutrition education sessions. ENGINE has also linked 154 HIV-positive households to homestead production.

Train HWs on nutrition assessment, counseling and support (NACS)

In SNNPR, ENGINE supported 22 (17 female, 5 male) HWs in pediatric anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) units. As a result of the training, 379 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) received nutrition counseling and MSGs conducted 52 nutrition sessions. The NACS training facilitates integration of nutrition services into HIV/AIDS, enhances provider negotiation techniques to improve people living with HIV (PLHIV) nutrition practices, and strengthens referral mechanisms with the USAID-funded Food by Prescription (FBP) project.

Support IRT training for new HEWs

ENGINE provided need-based, gap filling IRT training for 230 (165 female, 65 male) HEWs and their supervisors in Oromia Region using HEW training manuals and handbooks. ENGINE supported this training, as it is relevant to breastfeeding, complementary feeding, nutrition and HIV/AIDS, WASH and community mobilization. The trained HEWs and supervisors were pivotal in cascading the nutrition and WASH-focused training to over 42,111 HDA members.

Provide support for HDA trainings and nutritional cooking demonstrations

In Year II, ENGINE conducted nutritional cooking demonstrations in all regions, which benefited 20,386 community participants. The aim of the demonstrations was to transfer knowledge and skills to both female and male community members about how to provide diversified diets for infants, children and mothers using locally available foods. The sessions were designed to influence mothers, grandmothers, fathers and other community members to practice recommended feeding practices within their families.

Table 7: Number of community members who participated in nutritional cooking demonstrations, Year II

Region	Nutritional cooking demonstrations		
	Male	Female	Total
Amhara	17	452	469
Oromia	2,722	11,121	13,843
SNNP	1,455	4,433	5,888
Tigray	61	125	186
Total	4,255	16,131	20,386



Figure 10: Nutritional cooking and handwashing demonstration, Oromia (left); HDA training in Tigray (right)



Figure 11: Nutritional cooking demonstrations Amhara (left), Oromia (middle) and SNNPR (right)

Conduct nutrition-sensitive agriculture training for development agents

In Year II, ENGINE trained 150 agriculture workers/experts as facilitators in NSA. Facilitators developed action plans to cascade the training to AEWs and DAs. During rollout, ENGINE regional teams and *woreda* agricultural experts trained a total of 3,297 AEWs and DAs (616 female and 2681 male) (Table 8). The trainees will provide technical support to households, Farmers Training Centers (FTCs) and school gardens in their localities.

Table 8: Number of AEWs, DAs and agricultural experts trained in nutrition-sensitive agriculture, annual cumulative.

Name of Regions	Number of agricultural experts trained on NSA TOT			Number of AEWs and DAs trained on NSA (rollout)		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Amhara	46	1	47	602	203	805
Oromia	87	16	103	851	146	997
SNNP	-	-		1162	262	1424
Tigray	-	-		66	5	71
Total	133	17	150	2,681	616	3,297

Implement community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) training

In Year II, ENGINE provided CMAM training to 214 (103 female and 111 male) health workers in selected *woredas* of Amhara, East Oromia and SNNPR following the request of the government. The training was organized in collaboration with regional health bureaus and UNICEF and aimed to build capacity of trainees on the skills needed for management of children with SAM in health facilities. In SNNP, In addition to the training, ENGINE provided logistical support to Goriche *Woreda* for the transportation of Outpatient Therapeutic Program (OTP) supplies to all health posts. This enabled the OTP program to continue uninterrupted and created access for malnourished children to obtain needed care at the right time.

Improve tools used by frontline health and agriculture workers to promote the harmonization of nutrition messaging

In Year II, ENGINE printed and distributed 6,800 counselling materials in three languages (Table 9). These materials were created and pre-tested by the Alive & Thrive project. HWs and HEWs used these tools to enhance nutritional counselling for mothers in all four regions.

Table 9: Counseling materials printed and distributed, October 2012 – September 30, 2013

Description	Language		
	Amharic	Oromiffa	Tigrigna
Quick reference booklet	1,200	1,500	100
Counseling cards /brief case	1,500	1,200	100
MIYCN counseling card	500	600	100

Priorities for Next Quarter

SC with TA support from the Manoff group will issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to engage the services of a creative agency to support the rapid development of SBCC job aids and materials. They will prioritize the rapid testing of *creative concepts* to help “redefine” nutrition so as to explain the first 1000 Days and dietary diversity in a way that is appealing, easy to understand, and makes sense to the target audiences. The creative concepts will: be rapidly tested with pregnant women, mothers of children under two, adolescents, men (husbands/fathers), and grandmothers of children under 2 in the four regions; used alongside the findings from the harmonization workshop, the material inventory audit, and the formative research to inform the rapid design of SBCC materials in the first quarter of Year III according to the project’s priority areas (dietary diversity, maternal nutrition and innovative job aids for DAs); and contribute to the promotion of behaviors and household-level

actions related to the first 1000 Days and increased dietary diversity as “doable” for individuals and families.

IR.2.2 Health and nutrition services seeking behaviors increased

Strategy 2.2.1: Develop the social and behavior change communication (SBCC) strategy as it relates to health-seeking behaviors (discussed in IR 3.1 in detail)

Strategy 2.2.2: Mobilize communities to seek health/nutrition services

Select NGO partners to implement community conversation

Community conversations (CC) form an interactive process that encourages community members to reflect on motivators and barriers to improving MAIYCN behaviors and discover achievable actions for change. The CCs, along with ongoing HEW BCC activities, will strengthen the project’s comprehensive behavior change approach at the community level.

ENGINE is piloting the CC approach through locally contracted NGOs. ENGINE identified 24 *kebeles* in eight *woredas* in three regions to pilot the CCs. The project selected *woredas* and *kebeles* that had high-density populations and those with ENGINE livelihood and economic strengthening (LES) activities to synergize project efforts and maximize impact.

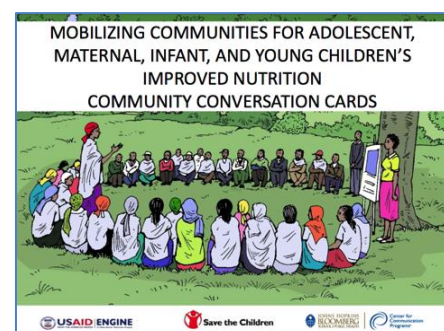
In the third quarter, JHU-CCP selected three implementing NGOs through a competitive process. Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church Development and Inter-Church AID Commission (EOC-DICAC), Ethiopian Muslim Relief and Development Association (EMRDA) and Mums for Mums (MUMs) will lead the CCs in Amhara, Oromia and Tigray. In SNNPR, JHU-CCP was unable to recruit a qualified implementing partner despite public bids and direct invitation requests. ENGINE is continuing to explore other options for SNNPR, while launching CC pilot activities in the other regions to avoid further delays.

Priorities for Next Quarter

Since the JHU-CCP contracts with local partners end on October 31, 2013, ENGINE will issue a new RFP to recruit qualified NGOs to implement enhanced CCs and selected social change and community engagement activities in the four regions.

Develop CC training manual, job aids and conduct TOT

JHU-CCP developed a CC training package building upon existing materials such as those developed by UNICEF and Alive & Thrive.¹³ The revised CC training guide includes a reference notebook, referral card and job aid, which were field tested in the fourth quarter. The notebook includes a step-by-step process for facilitating discussions to promote optimal nutrition behaviors. The referral card creates linkages



¹³ The Alive & Thrive CC materials focus on breastfeeding and complementary feeding and the role of community leaders. They do not address maternal nutrition issues, service seeking behavior, micronutrients, adolescent nutrition, nutrition sensitive agriculture, and the role of men.

with CC participants and service providers. The job aid covers essential behaviors related to MAIYCN. The Master CC TOT was conducted from July 22-26, 2013 in Adama, for 25 (19 male, 6 female) trainers selected by the local NGOs. The TOT equipped participants with technical knowledge and facilitation skills in MAIYCN, implementation of CCs, monitoring and reporting, male involvement and homestead gardening.

Identify key community change agents to promote nutrition and health services

From July-August 2013, the local NGOs organized sensitization workshops in the three regions for 142 key stakeholders and trusted community leaders (42 female, 100 male) from health and agriculture offices, women, children and youth affairs, *woreda* and *kebele* administrations, health and agriculture extension program and women's groups. As an outcome of the workshops, participants selected the 240 Community Change Agents (CCAs) who were later trained to become facilitators of the CC sessions in their respective communities.



Train Community Change Agents (CCAs)

Following participation in the master TOT and project sensitization workshops, the NGO partners organized trainings for the 240 CCAs selected from 24 *kebeles* in the eight pilot *woredas* (three *kebeles* per *woreda*) from August 28-September 2013. The training was designed to equip trainees with knowledge in MAIYCN and skills in effective community mobilization and CC facilitation.



Table 10: Number of CCAs trained disaggregated by sex and region

Region	# of CCAs at regional level in 8 <i>woredas</i>		
	Female	Male	Total
Amhara	90	-	90
Oromia	105	15	120
Tigray	30	-	30
Total	225	15	240

Launch community mobilization and CCs

By the end of September 2013, the 240 trained CCAs mobilized 3,570 community members (3,400 female, 71 male) into 120 CC groups (15 Tigray, 45 Amhara and 60 Oromia – 5 groups per *kebele*). The CC groups facilitated between two to five CC sessions after the training. JHU-CCP will submit a final report on the CC pilot by the end of October 2013.

Priorities for Next Quarter

With TA from the Manoff Group, SC will conduct site visits to observe CCs; use site visit observations and the final report on the CC pilot to enhance the overall design and content of the CC sessions and strengthen the facilitation skills and performance of the CCAs; design an enhanced CC session format to include role-playing, group exercises, games and additional SBCC materials designed for low-literate groups and to support family dialogue and gender-specific behavior change at household level; develop user-friendly observation and constructive feedback tools to facilitate

effective support supervision of CC facilitators by NGOs; revise existing manuals, referral cards, job aids for CC facilitators in line with enhanced session formats; and develop M&E tools to help track and assess the impact of the CC groups in Year III.



IR 2.3: Access to health and nutrition services increased

Strategy 2.3.1: Strengthening the referral system and access to essential supplies within maternal and child health services

Link with existing programs and partners

ENGINE supported the nutrition links with integrated community case management (iCCM) in Oromia. The Nutrition iCCM Technical Committee is established under the umbrella of the national Family Health Taskforce¹⁴ to enhance the multi-sector integration. ENGINE supported the ENGINE iCCM joint review meeting at regional, zonal and *woreda* levels. Furthermore, the project selected model HCs and HPs to integrate nutrition activities with iCCM and WASH. These selected sites will be used for experience sharing among health facilities in the respective target *woredas*.

ENGINE also supported measles immunization campaigns in Oromia, Amhara and SNNP Regions from May to June 2013. ENGINE zonal coordinators were instrumental in planning the campaigns, supervising activities and supporting a post-measles campaign survey. In addition, ENGINE provided financial support, transport of vaccines and vehicles for supervision. In Arsi Zone, Oromia Region, ENGINE assisted with the immunization of 315,000 children between the ages of 9-59 months, of which 31,051 were vaccinated from ENGINE targeted *woredas* (Adaba, Dodola and Kofele).

Support CHD implementation

CHD is a community-based effort held quarterly to screen for malnutrition in children under-5 and pregnant and lactating women (PLW), provide group education for PLW and children under-5, and provide vitamin A and de-worming every six months. ENGINE supported the CHD activities by planning the events, supporting distribution of vitamin A and de-worming tables for children under-5 (Figures 12 & 13), transporting nutrition commodities to sites, disseminating SBCC materials, conducting supportive supervision, as well as supporting CHD review meetings. ENGINE was also instrumental in strengthening referral linkages through partnerships with *woreda* health offices and health facilities.

¹⁴ All partners in the region working with the health sector are included.



Figure 12: CHD supply distribution, CHD services: Oromia, Amhara and SNNP Regions

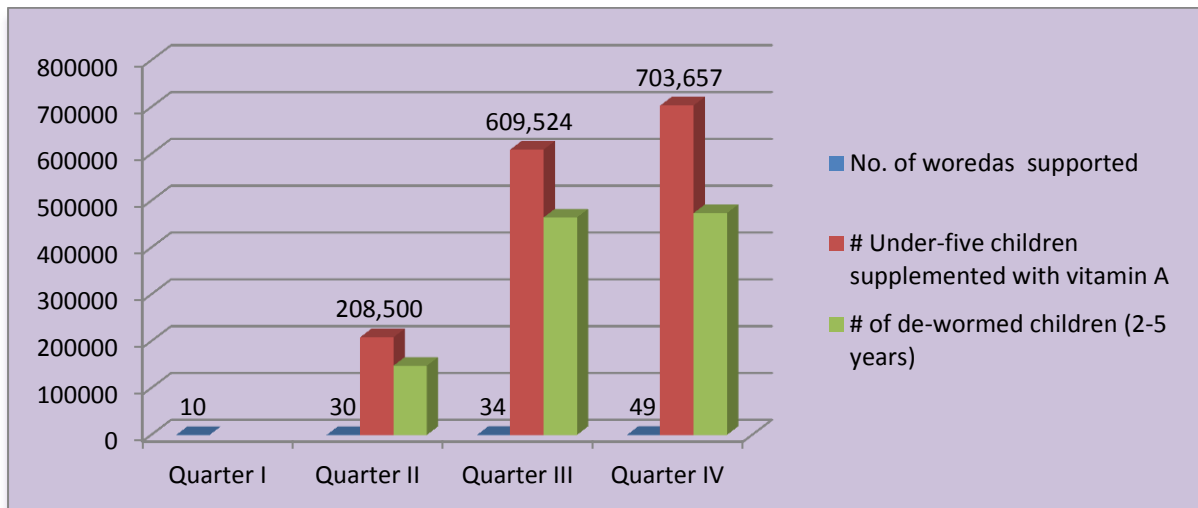


Figure 13: numbers of children reached with vitamin A and de-worming tablet in four regions, fourth quarter.

As part of the CHD program strengthening process, ENGINE conducted joint CHD supportive supervision for the third round of CHD implementation in partnership with local government at all levels and with NGO counterparts. Constructive feedback and major action points were given and explained to health workers on the spot and also back at the respective cluster HCs, as well as *woreda* health offices. Finally discussion on the general performance and implementation of the CHD in the supported *woredas* was conducted at zonal levels at the end of the supervision period.

Summary of CHD supportive supervision

	Gap identified during CHDs	Actions proposed	Changes after the actions
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low coverage of screened children, pregnant and lactating women in Tigray and Oromia regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion were held with the respective officials to plan CHD as the most priority action with RHBs. Discussed at woreda level to give attention for advocacy. Need for community awareness creation to bring change in perceptions about importance of CHD. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening rate of under-5 children increased from 89 percent to 96 percent and PLW increased from 51 percent to 67 percent over the year in Tigray. Vitamin A supplementation increased from 90 percent to 96 percent in Tigray.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poor referral of SAM cases to OTP services in Tigray and Oromia regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions were held at the facility level for the immediate linkage of SAM cases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost all children with SAM cases were linked to OTP services immediately after the completion of CHD in Tigray region.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical gap of health workers in MUAC measurement in Oromia and Tigray regions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical support should be given to HWs immediately. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ENGINE staff provided technical support during supportive supervision, by mentoring, review meetings and on-the-job training during CHDs.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of proper documentation for activities conducted in Oromia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical orientation was given on documentation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up will be conducted in Year III.

IR 3.1 Maternal, infant and young child feeding knowledge and practices improved

ENGINE will implement its SBCC activities combining individual counseling with multiple communication channels to promote optimal nutrition and WASH behaviors. The SBCC strategy includes the counseling services provided by the government health extension service (HEWs, DAs, and HWs), at the individual and community level (See under IR 2.1, strategy 2.1.2), and will be guided by the findings of the formative research.

Planned Activities:

- Conduct formative research and disseminate findings to key stakeholders
- Develop ENGINE SBCC strategy and communication materials and job aids
- Design and broadcast radio drama series and radio talk show

Accomplishments

Strategy 3.1.1: Develop SBCC strategy through powerful formative research

Conduct formative research to develop SBCC strategy

During the second half of Year II, JHU-CCP conducted formative research to determine the factors that influence dietary practices among pregnant women, women with children under the age of 2 years, and adolescent females between the ages of 15-18 years. A total of 48 focus group discussions (FGDs), 192 in-depth interviews (IDIs), 16 household observations and 16 transect walks were conducted in selected kebeles in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and SNNPR regions. A draft report was

complied presenting preliminary data from the research conducted in Amhara region. While the report contains substantial information, further analysis was required to generate findings that will inform the finalization of the SBCC strategy and the development of materials for the target audiences. SC hired the Manoff Group on August 12, 2013 to rapidly analyze, package and disseminate the formative research data, and JHU subsequently handed over all raw data to SC and the Manoff Group.

Priorities for Next Quarter

With technical assistance from the Manoff Group, ENGINE will conduct additional analysis of the formative research data and generate findings that will be used to refine the SBCC strategy; prepare a series of user-friendly reports and research briefs that will be shared with ENGINE stakeholders and contribute to the evidence base for SBCC in support of nutrition and agriculture programs; and provide technical support to ENGINE to use the research findings to develop new SBCC materials and job aids for frontline health and agriculture workers.

Develop SBCC strategy, communication materials and job aids

On August 19, 2013, JHU-CCP submitted a revised SBCC strategy after receiving substantial feedback from ENGINE on the initial versions. Because of the delay in implementing the formative research (see challenges section), the strategy was developed using existing breastfeeding and complementary feeding research. ENGINE hired The Manoff Group to provide international TA in finalizing the SBCC strategy, which will draw from the formative research and evidence base as well as global best practices in SBCC to lay out a road map for reaching families, front-line workers, communities, religious leaders and other key influencers. The strategy will be grounded in state-of-the-art SBCC theories to assure that not only the critical nutrition-promoting behaviors, but also underlying socio-cultural determinants (particularly gender roles, family relationships, and social networks), are the focus of all messages, materials, and interventions. ENGINE will update existing materials (e.g. MIYCN counselling materials, training manuals, etc.) and develop new media and job aids in line with the revised SBCC strategy.

Strategy 3.1.2: Promote optimal nutrition practices through dynamic communication channels

Radio Drama Series

During Quarter IV, JHU-CCP finalized the draft design of a radio serial drama, which included a synopsis of the first 13 episodes and a storyline for the first 26 episodes. Further work on the radio serial drama was put on hold in September 2013 following a technical review. Concerns were raised about the quality of the nutrition and agriculture-nutrition information, the approach to specific topics including gender roles and gender-based domestic violence, and strategic considerations regarding potential to impact behavior and social change among the target audiences. This was based on evidence arising from a recent ENGINE gender analysis which includes the finding that only 13.5 percent of women and 23 percent of men had frequent access to nutrition information through radio and television.

Priorities for Next Quarter

With TA from the Manoff Group, ENGINE will revise the radio serial drama design and content to address concerns raised during the technical review and the new evidence on radio audience listenership arising from the recent ENGINE gender analysis. The new design process will include a

strategic decision on whether to change the focus of the radio serial drama to include promoting pro-nutrition male gender roles and to target men as the primary audience, with women (pregnant women, mothers of children under two, and grandmothers) as secondary audiences. The design of the show will be enhanced to include greater audience participation through live broadcasts in homes and communities, as well a new focus on positive role models among community change agents, agriculture extension officers, health extension officers, and family members. The content of the show will also be refined to focus on more nutrition-specific and achievable household actions to increase dietary diversity for priority groups (mothers, adolescents and young children). To increase access to the radio serial drama, audio-recordings of either the entire program or selected segments will be disseminated and played at health facilities, Enhanced Community Conversations, and FTCs on tape cassette or CD-ROMs.

Radio Talk Show

Based on gaps identified from a materials inventory exercise and consultations held during a SBCC strategy design workshop, JHU-CCP identified the need for an informative nutrition-focused media program. Accordingly, the SBCC team designed and launched a radio talk show entitled “1000 days” in collaboration with four contracted regional radio stations. The program was produced in three languages in four regions and aired weekly. It is a pioneer in promoting the importance of the first 1000 days as a window of opportunity to prevent undernutrition and its long-term impact on the next generation. The first cycle (17 episodes) was aired in all four regions. Five selected programs were also rerun in Tigray and SNNPR. Following this, a second cycle of 10 additional episodes was designed for production and airing until mid December 2013.¹⁵ Promotional radio spots and market place promotional activities were also carried out to encourage listeners to tune-in to the radio show. A total of 55 *woredas* were reached through the market promotion activities in the four regions (Amhara 15, Oromia 28, SNNPR 7 and Tigray 5). An estimated 977,300¹⁶ people in the four regions listened to the weekly show. The contracted radio stations have collected feedback from SMSs, voice calls and question and answer (Q&A) participation and summarized the findings in a mid-term report. Preliminary findings suggest that listeners enjoy the “1000 days” talk show and that it has become among the most popular programs aired on the contracted radio stations.

Priorities for Next Quarter

JHU-CCP will include information on progress made and any insights gained through implementation of the radio talk show in their final program report. The Manoff Group will review the report and build on lessons-learned to strengthen future programming and enhance the talk show format as necessary.

¹⁵ The additional themes recommended by the ENGINE team and from feedback gathered from listeners include promotion of iodized salt; saving for better nutrition; hygiene and sanitation in food preparation handling and feeding; feeding the sick child; improved backyard chicken production; cooking nutritious meals from locally available foods; child feeding in the context of HIV, production of under-utilized traditional food crops; and the role of HEWs and DAs in nutrition.

¹⁶ Estimates based on broadcast reach of radio stations broadcasting the 1,000 Days program and estimated percent of adults in the listening area who listen to radio regularly, according to the Demographic and Health Survey. Radio reach = (prevalence of radio possession, from Census 2007) × (ENGINE population) × (Gross reach by A&T study) Radio reach = (33.7%) × (10,000,000) × (29%) = 977,300

IR 3.2: Increased access to food and economic strengthening opportunities through programming and cross-sector linkage

Strategy 3.2.1: Apply economic strengthening activities in target geographical areas to address specific household vulnerabilities

Map livelihood and economic activities of Year II woredas

ENGINE mapped LES activities in the 42 newly enrolled woredas in the four target regions and updated the mapping data for all 41 Year I woredas in the second year. The objective of the mapping exercise was to identify types of livelihood interventions supported by different programs/projects and create linkages to avoid duplication. By the end of October 2013, ENGINE will consolidate mapping information collected from the 83 woredas into a comprehensive report that will be shared with FtF partners and key stakeholders.

Set targeting criteria to conduct household vulnerability analysis and selection

Early in Year II, ENGINE expanded the identification and selection of beneficiaries for LES support. Based on Year I implementation, the targeting criteria was revised with a focus on targeting women of reproductive age (15 - 49 years) and standardizing the plot of land for homestead vegetable production to 50 –100m². In the second year, the ENGINE regional teams, with local development agents (DAs), selected the most vulnerable households (MVHHs) for LES support using the updated targeting criteria and AGP community participatory planning tool. ENGINE provided these MVHHs with seeds for homestead gardens and productive livestock. ENGINE also increased their capacity in NSA, diet diversity, animal husbandry, business management, translating income into nutrition and gender awareness through training and on-site supervision and mentoring. Details of project support are indicated in the relevant sections and tables below.

Conduct rapid market and economic assessment

ENGINE conducted a rapid market and economic assessment to facilitate market linkages with livelihood interventions during Year II. The objectives were to explore and assess ways to link project beneficiaries to financial service providers and develop tools for the formation of village savings groups. The livelihood team collected data from local markets and from existing savings groups to inform the strategy and villages' savings group tool. Findings from the market assessment are incorporated into the Year III work plan to address surplus vegetable production.

Facilitate and strengthen formation of savings groups for the MVHH beneficiaries

Based on the economic assessment, ENGINE strengthened established savings groups and organized new ones in all four regions. The purpose of the saving groups is to initiate savings, create access to financial services and make the LES project support sustainable. Table II indicates the number of groups formed by the supported MVHHs and amount of money saved over the past year. The group members are required to save for a certain period of time; typically 12 months, to build an asset base that will enable them to enter into formal saving and credit associations, or microfinance institutions (MFIs), or develop themselves into formal saving and credit associations. The saving group will also provide small loans while saving is in progress. This will allow them to become full members of associations and gain financial access to aid expansion of their ENGINE supported businesses or diversify their income-generating activities. Accordingly, three of the saving groups from west Oromia received a legal status from the cooperative promotion office and one from SNNP joined a cooperative union.

Table 11: Number of saving groups formed by regions

Region	Number of groups formed	Amount of money saved
Tigray	40	88,520 Birr (4,784.86 USD)
Amhara	45	11,257 Birr (608.48 USD)
Oromia	64	53,024 Birr (2,866.16 USD)
SNNP	22	4,125 Birr (222.97 USD)
Total	171	156,926 Birr (8,483USD)

1USD is equivalent to Birr 18.50

Provide technical and material support to address strategic needs to MVHHs

ENGINE pilot-tested perma-garden¹⁷ demonstrations to encourage dietary diversification and economic strengthening on small parcels of land in Year II. With assistance from a skilled consultant, ENGINE provided home-based perma-garden TOT in the Oromia region for 31 ENGINE zonal and regional staff, DA's and primary school teachers. ENGINE facilitators then cascaded the training to 499 development agents and MVHHs supported with homestead vegetable and fruit production (Table 12). Since the training, 14 households in East Oromia have planted vegetables using perma-gardening techniques. ENGINE zonal coordinators will monitor these perma-gardens and compare production with traditional seed beds. If the perma-garden production exceeds the traditional method, it will be expanded in Year III.

Table 12: Number of individuals trained in perma-garden techniques

Region	Male	Female	Total
Tigray	7	117	124
Amhara			
Oromia	106	231	337
SNNP	30	8	38 ¹⁸
Total	143	356	499

Strategy 3.2.2: Facilitate community-based learning on agriculture techniques for increased production of diverse foods

Promote vegetables and fruit production at FTC demonstration plots and school gardens

In Year II, ENGINE planned to support 200 schools (2 schools per *woreda*) and 100 Farmers Training Centers (1 FTC per *woreda*) in 100 *woredas* (83 AGP and 17 non AGP). However, ENGINE has not yet phased into the 17 non-AGP *woredas* (see executive summary and program management section). For this reason, only 165 schools and 74 FTCs were supported with hand tools, vegetable and fruit planting materials, technical support and trainings in the 83 AGP *woredas*.

Train schoolteachers in gardening and food preparation (cooking)

¹⁷ Perma-gardens can be defined as highly protective and productive home gardens which utilize the principles of Permaculture and Bio-Intensive Agriculture.

Source: Peter Jenson, *Permagarden Food Security Specialist*.

¹⁸ Only 38 were trained in SNNPR because of time constraints, more will be conducted in Year III.

In Year II, ENGINE trained 654 schoolteachers (2 teachers per school) using the newly developed nutrition and school gardening teaching aid in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray, regions (Table 13). The trained teachers manage the school gardening and cooking demonstration activities performed at their respective schools. In addition to this, the trained teachers and school directors formed 20 nutrition clubs in SNNP region. The other trained staff members are also preparing to form clubs to disseminate nutrition and gardening messages to the wider community.

Table 13: Number of schoolteachers trained in nutrition and school gardening by regions

Region	Male	Female	Total
Tigray	54	6	60
Amhara	107	151	258
Oromia	115	73	188
SNNP	34	114	148
Total	310	344	654

Provide printed teaching aids on nutrition and farming technology to schools

As discussed above, ENGINE trained 654 school teachers, school directors and woreda education office staff using the customized FAO teaching aids developed in Year II to be used as reference materials. The following trainings materials were developed and provided to the trainees: *‘Setting Up and Running a School Garden’* manual with a corresponding teaching toolkit and a customized *‘Nutrition and Gardening’* training manual.

Provide financial and material support to school gardens and FTCs

ENGINE provided a variety of vegetable seeds (cabbage, carrots, Swiss chard, Irish potato, oranges, sweet potato, pumpkin, kale and green beans), fruit seedlings (mango, avocado, papaya and apple), and farm tools (hoes, spades, forks, rakes, watering cans, pickaxes and shovels) to 165 schools during Year II (Table 14).

Table 14: Number of schools supported by regions

Region	Schools supported by quarter				
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Total
Tigray		8	8		16
Amhara		9	35		44
Oromia	31	36			67
SNNP	18	20			38
Total	49	73	43		165

Similarly, ENGINE provided vegetable seeds and fruit seedlings to 74 FTCs in Amhara, Oromia, SNNP and Tigray with various vegetable seeds (cabbage, carrots, Swiss chard, Irish potato, oranges, sweet potato, pumpkin, kale and green beans) and fruit seedlings (mango, avocado, papaya and apple) as shown in Table 15.

Table 15: Number of FTCs supported by regions

Region	Target	Accomplishment by quarter				
		Quarter-1	Quarter-2	Quarter-3	Quarter-4	Total
Tigray	8		8			8
Amhara	22		20	2		22
Oromia	34	19			6	25
SNNP	19		10	9		19
Total	83	19	38	11	6	74

Demonstrate agricultural practices, food preparation and post-harvest technologies

To promote dietary diversification and MIYCN at household and community levels, in Year II ENGINE organized agronomic (gardening) and cooking practices demonstration events at FTCs and schools in all the regions. The demonstrations focused primarily on selected nutritious vegetables cultivated. As shown in Table 16 below, a total of 42,690 individuals attended 130 events throughout the year.

Table 16: Number of individuals participating in agronomic and cooking demonstration events

Region	Male		Female		Total	Number of Events
	#	%	#	%		
Tigray	998	47	1116	53	2114	2
Amhara	2477	54	2143	46	4620	28
Oromia	17654	51	17081	49	34735	87
SNNP	785	64	436	36	1221	13
Total	21914	51	20776	49	42690	130

Conduct experience sharing visits with best performing schools on gardening best practices

In Year II, ENGINE conducted three experience-sharing visits at best performing schools in Tigray and Oromia. The purpose of the visits was to share the school gardening experience of the best performing schools and replicate the best practices among schools supported by ENGINE in each of the regions. ENGINE will conduct experience-sharing visits in October and November in all regions when schools are open and vegetables mature.

Provide improved seed varieties and horticultural hand tools

ENGINE provided 5,718 MVHHs with various seeds and fruit seedlings, including cabbage, carrot, Swiss chard, Irish potato, sweet potato (orange and white flesh), pumpkin, green beans, kale,

avocado, mango, papaya and apple (Table 17). Preliminary assessments indicate that farmers started using the vegetable produced at their homestead to diversify their diets. In addition, they also purchased chickens from the sale of surplus vegetable produce and provided animal source food for their children.

Table 17: Number of VHHs provided with homestead fruits and vegetables

Region	Target	Male headed (MHH)	Female headed (FHH)	Total number of HHs (MHH + FHH)	% accomplishment
Tigray	320	0	471	471	94%
Amhara	860	329	905	1234	151%
Oromia	1,330	1465	1282	2747	207%
SNNP	720	586	680	1266	112%
Total	3,230	2380	3338	5718	142%

Figure 13: Households carrying their excess produce to sell to the local cooperative union and markets

Provide linkages with the market

ENGINE assisted MVHHs, FTCs and schools to produce vegetable for MVHH consumption at their homesteads and demonstrations at FTCs and schools in Year II. One of the goals of the livelihood intervention is for the surplus production to be marketed and sold to local markets and wholesalers as a way to generate income, giving households the ability to purchase a better variety of nutritious foods. In Oromia region, ENGINE linked 40 MVHHs, three schools and two schools with local



markets, together with AGP and the Agricultural Marketing Process Owner of the Woreda Agriculture Office.

Conduct small-scale poultry production, management and health training for agricultural experts

In Year II, ENGINE provided two rounds of training to 55 DAs and woreda livestock experts to ensure that DAs supporting MVHHs involved in poultry production are updated on small-scale poultry production, management, health, feed and housing. All trainees developed action plans to cascade the training to their direct household beneficiaries. As a follow up to this training, woreda livestock experts in East and West Oromia, Amhara, Tigray and SNNP regions trained 158 beneficiaries on poultry production using the poultry training manual and trainers' guide.

Train vulnerable households in small business management, nutrition, gender and related technical skills

In Year II, ENGINE trained 3,221 individuals within MVHHs on homestead production of horticultural crops, animal husbandry, nutrition, gender and related technical skills using standardized implementation guidelines (Table 18). Particular emphasis was placed on introducing MVHHs to new technologies of horticulture and livestock management, as well as nutrition and gender as a cross-cutting theme that focused on dietary diversification and the role of women in household decision-making based on the gender analysis and time use study (see cross-cutting gender section).

Table 18: Number of individuals trained in homestead production of horticultural crops, animal husbandry, nutrition, gender and related technical skills

Region	Male headed (MHH)	Female headed (FHH)	Total number of HHs (MHH + FHH)
Tigray	6	445	451
Amhara	0	1278	1278
Oromia	123	749	872
SNNP	0	620	620
Total	129	3092	3221

Promote farming technology package and livestock at the household level (MVHHs)

In Year II, ENGINE provided 3,359 MVHHs with livestock (sheep, goats, heifers or chicken) based on their interest and capacity (Table 19). The training provided on livestock and health management helped the farmers to manage their animals productively. The preliminary data collected on livestock reproductive performance and mortality shows encouraging and positive performance in terms of reproductively, fertility and herd size.

Table 19: Number of HHs provided with productive livestock by region

Region	Male headed (MHH)	Female headed (FHH)	Total number of HHs (MHH + FHH)
Tigray	7	445	452
Amhara	227	524	751
Oromia	860	395	1255
SNNP	397	504	901
Total	1526	2109	3359



Figure 14: Distribution of heifers to MVHHs in Goriche Woreda (left), sheep in Gedeb Woreda (middle) and chicken in Enemore Woreda of SNNP Region

Support post-harvest technology workshops and/or demonstrations

ENGINE contracted FMoA and agriculture research to promote post-harvest technologies, but did not receive any interest. The project has started compiling materials on post-harvest handling and management of fresh vegetables and fruits, which will be included in the vegetables and fruits production guidelines for MVHHs.

Support NSA research (agricultural research institutes)

ENGINE is in the process of preparing a RFP to encourage agricultural institutes to submit proposals to conduct applied research or to promote their research findings on nutrition. Based on the RFP response, ENGINE aims to partner with interested and qualified agricultural research institutes to conduct applied research or to promote existing NSA research findings.

Promote asset protection through micro-insurance

ENGINE conducted a micro-insurance feasibility assessment to promote asset protection through livestock micro-insurance in Year II. Based on the findings, ENGINE will use a hybrid model that uses of traditional savings mechanisms that link to the formal sector. In Year III, ENGINE will pilot the hybrid livestock insurance approach, document lessons-learned and scale-up if successful.

Environmental compliance

In early 2013, the ENGINE project received approval of its environmental review, mitigation and monitoring plan from USAID. ENGINE project activities requiring mitigating action are associated with IR 3.2. Access to food and economic strengthening opportunities through programming and cross-sectoral linkages increased.

In Year II, ENGINE technical team reviewed existing activities to identify those activities where mitigation measures have already been integrated and those not being addressed. Accordingly, to increase the adoption of environmental best practices by ENGINE impact groups and partners, information needs to be shared repeatedly and woven into the existing agriculture and livestock training curriculum. The current curriculum already includes training on key public health and environmental conservation, information and impact upon groups and partners. The mitigation output results for Year II are shown in Table 20. Specific mitigation activities include:

Water management

In Year II, ENGINE developed a nutrition sensitive agriculture curriculum for agriculture DAs that includes water management as part of the session on hygiene and safe food handling. Trained DAs then provided on-site mentoring support for households. Next year the project will revise the NSA curriculum to include a stronger emphasis on water management and safety to increase the adoption of best practices by MVHH receiving homestead crops and livestock through ENGINE support.

Prevention of overgrazing

ENGINE has continued purchasing animals from the local market to avoid addition pressure on the existing pastures. Increasing the production and storage of forage and supplemental feeding practices is a large part of ENGINE's livestock training curriculum. Because of small parcel sizes, project recommended forage species can be grown along fence lines/borders (e.g. vines, shrubs, trees) or serve a dual purpose (improve soil fertility, provide food for humans, wood can be used for construction). Preservation and storage of crop residues is another key technique promoted by ENGINE.

Animal Health

To ensure distributed animals remain alive and free of disease, ENGINE provided basic animal health service for all distributed animals. To date, all livestock distributed to MVHHs have received anti-parasitic treatment prior to hand-over to the recipients. Animals were vaccinated against major diseases prevalent in a given locality. Animal health services were rendered by nearby public veterinary service providers.

Table 20: Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring

Activity description	Mitigation measures	Monitoring Indicator(s)	Output	Comment
			# of people trained	
Support demonstration of nutrition sensitive agriculture technologies at selected FTCs and schools	Provide training on water management	# of people trained on water management and safety	3279	3046 HHs received Nutrition Sensitive Agriculture Training. In addition crop and livestock training materials are being revised and will be integrated to the upcoming trainings
Provide selected vulnerable households and women's groups with livestock and seedlings for production of fruits and vegetables	Provide training of feed preparation, forage production, livestock management and veterinary services	# of people trained on feed and livestock management	3221	3221 HHs received training on forage production and feed reserve
	Provide required vaccinations for livestock	# vaccinations provided to livestock	14,174	To date, 14,174 animals have been distributed to 3,359 households. All animals received a thorough animal health examination

				by a government veterinary officer. Animals also received vaccinations for 14,174 as appropriate.
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IR 4: Rigorous and innovative learning agendas adopted

IR 4.1: Design and delivery of a research strategy

Planned activities:

- Design and develop research protocols
- Build capacity of MSc students in nutrition
- Establish PhD program in nutrition
- Conduct research methodology training

Accomplishments

Strategy 4.1: Design and delivery of a research strategy

Design and develop research study protocols

TU signed subcontract agreements with its local research partners (EHNRI, Hawassa University, Jimma University) to ensure smooth implementation of OR activities. The TU research led three protocol development workshops to finalize the OR questions, hypotheses and timeframes for secondary data analysis and cohort studies. As a result, TU regrouped its OR questions into three categories: (1) nutrition policy research; (2) secondary data analyses research; and (3) cohort studies (birth cohort and agriculture-nutrition panel). In Year II, TU designed eight OR protocols, one on nutrition policy research and seven on secondary analysis research; and VI developed two OR protocols, one on MAM and one on SAM. Development is underway on all OR studies as described below.

Nutrition policy research

The TU research team presented and defended a nutrition policy research proposal entitled “Assessing multi-sector coordination for nutrition policy effectiveness: Analysis of facilitators, constraints and solutions for effective implementation” at the EHNRI Scientific and Ethical Review Committee and received ethical approval. The research team completed the data collection of the

national-level nutrition policy research. The PI of the study also provided qualitative research training for EHNRI partners that enabled them to collect all the sub-national policy research data (regions, zones, *woredas*). In a period of 45 days, the EHNRI team audio-recorded 345 regional, zonal and *woreda*-level key informant interviews in all four regions.

Secondary data analysis research

ENGINE developed seven secondary-analysis research protocols and gathered the data sets required to conduct the analysis.¹⁹ TU provided data analysis training to build capacity of investigators (PIs and Co-PIs) from partner institutes (Hawassa, Jimma and ENHRI), as well as the ENGINE research team. The findings of the data analysis research will be reported starting from December 2013.

Cohort studies

Birth cohort study

The birth cohort study will assess the effectiveness of direct and indirect interventions targeting maternal and child nutrition and their health outcomes. ENGINE selected three *woredas* (two intervention and one control) from the Oromia Region. The study will be based out of Jimma University to build on its extensive research experience. Four co-principal investigators from Tufts, Jimma and Hawassa Universities are leading the birth cohort study. The study team also includes secondary investigators (PhD students and other interested researchers), a survey coordinator, nine supervisors, 40 enumerators and one data quality coordinator (who will also serve as data quality coordinator for the nutrition-agriculture panel).

Agriculture-nutrition panel

The agriculture-nutrition cohort study will examine the role of ENGINE in affecting nutrition, food security and livelihood outcomes through its integrated programming. It will be conducted through a series of five surveys during the post-harvest and pre-harvest seasons. ENGINE will sample *woredas* from within the project's baseline survey *woredas*; 20 *woredas* were selected, ten intervention and ten control. The research team consists of three Co-PIs from Tufts, Jimma and Hawassa Universities, secondary investigators (PhD students and other interested researchers), a survey coordinator, 15 supervisors and 60 enumerators. The protocol is being developed and the first survey will start during the post-harvest season in February 2014.

MAM and SAM OR studies

Jimma University and VI entered into a subcontract agreement to implement MAM and SAM research; developed study protocols; and completed sample size justification sheets, questionnaires, indicator code books, staffing plans and provisional budgets. Full OR proposals (MAM and SAM) were submitted to Jimma University and ethical approval was granted. VI conducted six supportive supervision trips to ensure quality data collection for both studies.

MAM OR

¹⁹ Data sets from Household Income, Consumption and Expenditure Survey - 2011, Ethiopia Demographic and Health Survey (2000, 2005 and 2011) and the Welfare Monitoring Survey – WMS 2011/2012) (Central Statistics Agency).

The purpose of the MAM OR is to provide evidence for whether there is a need for a Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP) in food-secure settings of rural Ethiopia. The study will determine the outcomes of MAM and their determinants through follow-up of moderately acutely malnourished children (6-59 months). VI completed the final selection of OR study *kebeles* and pilot tested study questionnaires. Data collection began in Dedo (14 *kebeles*) and Mana (10 *kebeles*) *woredas* of Jimma zone. Forty data collectors and eight supervisors were recruited and trained to screen children with MAM. A total of 927 MAM children were enrolled in the study and will be followed for seven months. The research team collected and entered baseline information from each enrolled study participant.

SAM OR

The objective of the SAM OR is to determine the long-term health outcomes of children age 6-59 months successfully treated for SAM in a community-based management (CBM) program and comparing with under-5 apparently healthy population in the same community. VI initiated the SAM study in Seka Chekorsa (3 health centers), Dedo (3 health centers), and Tiro Afata (2 health centers) *woredas* of Jimma zone. In collaboration with Jimma University, VI recruited and trained 12 data collectors who collected and entered the baseline data. Only 16 children, all of whom were discharged from SAM as “cured,” were enrolled in the study over a one-month period. The speed of child enrollment was much slower than initially estimated. This is attributed to the slow rate of discharge of SAM children as “cured” from health facilities, a variable that the study cannot control.

Build research capacity building for MSc thesis students

As one of its capacity building objectives, ENGINE provided technical and financial support to 27 MSc thesis students from five universities: Jimma, Gondar, Hawassa, Mekelle and Harommaya. Of these, 23 students were supported during this reporting year. Students are conducting nutrition research relevant to micronutrients, complementary feeding and breastfeeding, nutrition policy and nutrition intervention programs. Twenty MSc students have already completed their work and defended their theses with strong academic achievement. Among those who successfully defended their thesis, two students from Gondar and Hawassa were selected to present their MSc research findings at the national NNP launch workshop.

Establish PhD research program

To strengthen local university capacity, ENGINE identified eight PhD candidates who will pursue their studies in Human Nutrition at Jimma University through a joint program with Ghent University, Belgium. They include three from Jimma University, two from EHNRI, two from Hawassa University and one from Tufts University. All candidates' research topics are in line with ENGINE research priority areas. The capacity-building program started in September 2013. The potential opportunities considered in this training were to: (1) use local technical resources to train researchers on statistical analysis and study design; (2) organize a mini-library on nutrition reference texts for each research partner and Tufts Addis office; and (3) use Tufts one year, online graduate certificate courses, as an immediate capacity-building mechanism.

Conduct research methodology training

This activity was planned to build the capacity of local university professors in nutrition research. However, during visits to partner universities, the ENGINE M&E team found that universities are already conducting research methodology training through other support. To avoid duplication of efforts, ENGINE reprogrammed this activity.

IR 4.2: Develop and manage an innovative documentation and dissemination strategy

Planned activities:

- Conduct baseline survey data collection and data analysis
- Prepare for barrier to access analysis (SQUEAC assessment)
- Establish project M&E system and database
- Develop communication strategy for documenting ENGINE M&E activities
- Conduct data quality assessments at health facilities
- Train HWs on nutrition M&E, data presentation and data utilization
- Assist *woredas* in evidence-based health sector planning

Accomplishments

Conduct baseline survey data collection and data analysis

The baseline survey, designed by VI and implemented by TU, was completed at the end of September 2013. A total of 42 (28 intervention areas, 14 controls) of the targeted 45 *woredas* and a total of 11,857 households interviews were covered.²⁰ The Year I interim baseline survey report was finalized. ENGINE then presented baseline results in Year I *woredas* at the quarterly FtF coordination meeting, the USAID Rural and Economic Development Donor meeting and the NNP launch workshop. The full baseline survey report, which includes all 42 *woredas*, will be available at the end of November 2013.

Prepare for Semi-Quantitative Evaluation of Access and Coverage (SQUEAC) assessment

ENGINE assessed the feasibility of conducting a SQUEAC survey to better understand facilitators and barriers to optimal infant and young child feeding practices, as well as to further explore the baseline findings. VI submitted a rationale and design document for the SQUEAC study, with a focus on early initiation of breastfeeding and dietary diversity in complementary feeding.

Establish program M&E system and database

ENGINE developed an M&E overview document and project impact pathway that gives guidance on how the project's M&E system works from the central office to the field office. ENGINE also designed a user-friendly M&E database system that will generate project reports next year. The ENGINE Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) was approved by the USAID Ethiopia mission, including targets for key project indicators (Annex II).

Develop communication strategy for ENGINE objectives, outputs and results

ENGINE hired a communication consultant to develop the communication strategy for ENGINE to document the learning agenda and outcomes from project activities. The strategy was completed and will be fully implemented in Year III.

²⁰ The survey generated data for a variety of impact indicators including dietary diversity, health/hygiene practices, prevalence of malnutrition, as well as access and utilization of health and nutrition services.

Conduct data quality assessments at health centers and health posts

In Year II, ENGINE conducted the first data quality assessment at three HFs (HC & HP) in three Amhara Region districts, using the lot quality assurance sampling (LQAS) approach recommended by the Ethiopian Health Management Information System (HMIS) and will be applied in all ENGINE-supported regions. Results showed that HC data inaccuracies are high due to rotation of trained HWs and lack of a nutrition counseling registration. To build capacity, ENGINE trained HWs in data quality and will follow-up to mentor the trained HWs on effective MIYCN data documentation.

Provide training on M&E, data presentation and data utilization to woreda data staff

ENGINE trained 330 health workers, *woreda*-level data staff and zonal health planning officers from Oromia, SNNP and Amhara Regions in the M&E of nutrition programs, use of nutrition data, quality data assessment, Child Health Days (CHDs) target setting and coverage calculation, data utilization and data presentation techniques, as well as recording and reporting. The training equipped participants with skills to collect quality data and commitment to practice data quality assessments on a quarterly basis. To monitor progress, ENGINE M&E officers and zonal coordinators will conduct post-training follow-up and mentoring for all trained HWs next year. In Oromia and Amhara Regions, trainees raised the challenge of HCs not having performance monitoring teams to assess quarterly HC performance. ENGINE will address this gap through its QI road map to be developed next year (see IR 2.1.1).

Support *woreda* evidence-based health sector planning

ENGINE provided technical and financial support to the *woreda*-based planning process. Project inputs included: supportive supervision (IR 2.1); quarterly review meetings; participation in bottleneck identification and solution; incorporation of nutrition indicators outside of HMIS; and financial breakdown from government and partners. In addition, regional teams shared baseline survey findings and indicators to enhance planning for nutrition interventions. *Woreda*-level planning has helped to integrate ENGINE activities with the government plan and bring nutrition into focus.

Cross-cutting activities: Gender

Planned activities:

- Conduct gender audit assessments at FMOH, MOA, and Ministry of Women, Children and Youth Affairs (MoWCYA)
- Conduct a gender analysis at the community level
- Implement a consultative workshop to develop a gender strategy
- Develop a gender mainstreaming strategy for ENGINE
- Support the integration of gender into project activities including supportive supervision
- Develop gender mainstreaming guidelines to integrate gender into ENGINE activities
- Develop/adapt a gender-awareness training manual

Accomplishments

Conducting gender audit assessment at ENGINE, MoH, MoA, and MoWCYA

A reputable consulting firm hired by ENGINE conducted a gender audit for ENGINE, FMoH, MoA and MoWCYA and their decentralized bureaus. The aim of the audit was to identify opportunities, barriers and possible entry points to promote gender sensitive nutrition programming across sectors. The consulting firm submitted the final report at the end of the third quarter. With ENGINE input, the findings were used to design the project's gender strategy.

Conduct gender analysis at community level

In Year II, the consulting firm carried out a gender analysis to assess the underlying factors of gender norms and dynamics affecting nutrition-related decisions at the community/kebele levels where ENGINE operates. Twelve woredas were selected from the four regions. The final report was submitted and preliminary results were shared with the wider nutrition community during the NNP launching workshop in June 2013. Moreover, ENGINE will use the final results to

Preliminary findings from gender analysis:

- ✍ Women spent 13 hours a day working and nearly 50% of women spent more than six hours on food preparation.
- ✍ More than 50% of study participants claimed that women were passive participants in community structures while only 5% were able to make decisions.
- ✍ Although women had control over dairy products and poultry, the men controlled the majority of the resources.
- ✍ Nearly a third of women had no access to media compared to 17.4% of men.
- ✍ Only 13.2% of women and 23% of men had frequent access to nutrition information through radio and television.

develop the project's mainstreaming strategy. For example, the SBCC team will compare the gender analysis media findings with the formative research results to strategically target beneficiaries and promote do-able actions for the ongoing radio magazine show and planned radio drama series.

Develop gender mainstreaming strategy

ENGINE planned to facilitate a participatory workshop to develop the gender mainstreaming strategy based on the gender audit and analysis report. However, due to the delay in completing the final report, the consulting firm developed the preliminary strategy in quarter four in consultation with ENGINE technical advisors. The gender strategy entails developing gender mainstreaming guidelines and coordination mechanisms, enhancing the capacity for gender mainstreaming and integrating gender as a crosscutting issue into all four of the project's intermediate results. The strategy document will be helpful in guiding the gender mainstreaming activities for the project and will be shared as a resource for other implementing partners in collaboration with the USAID Gender Officer. In Year III, gender issues will be fully addressed and integrated into ENGINE's nutrition and livelihood activities, such as involving men, targeting interventions that are controlled by women, empowering women to take an active role in community structures and improving women's access to nutrition information.

Integrate gender into ENGINE activities

During the first quarter of Year II, the newly revised MIYCN and nutrition-sensitive agriculture training materials were updated to provide health and agriculture workers with basic gender concepts and how they can integrate these issues into their daily health and nutrition service provision. The contents of the training materials will continue to be reviewed and updated following the findings of the gender analysis, gender audit and women's time-use study.

ENGINE also began mainstreaming gender into its ongoing activities. This includes ensuring that ENGINE's radio message development process, LES strengthening activities and supportive supervision are gender-sensitive. For example, gender-related questions were incorporated into supportive supervision checklists for project supervisors. The ENGINE gender advisor then visited all target regions with technical advisors to provide onsite support to regional and zonal teams. In the fourth quarter, ENGINE integrated gender into the program managers training manual for health and agriculture cadres in the manual and in the TOT training.

Develop a gender-awareness training manual

One of the recommendations of the gender audit was to develop a training manual to build gender capacity for project staff and implementing partners in health and agriculture. Accordingly, during this reporting period, a gender-awareness training manual was drafted. The edited version will be shared with the USAID gender officer for review before it is finalized. This manual will be used as a reference manual for conducting the gender-awareness training for project staff and partner organizations at all levels with the involvement of the USAID gender advisor. Sensitization and TOT trainings will also be provided to selected ENGINE staff and experts from health and agriculture bureaus.

Develop gender mainstreaming guidelines for ENGINE

This activity was postponed because of the late submission of the gender assessment reports by the consulting firm. In Year III, ENGINE will develop gender mainstreaming guidelines to provide direction for integrating gender into each of the four intermediate results based on the final gender audit and assessment findings.

Conduct gender and women's time use study

In the second quarter of Year II, the ENGINE gender advisor carried out a gender and women's time-use study by selecting one woreda from each region using qualitative techniques. The time-use study was conducted to assess whether or not women supported by ENGINE livelihood activities had an increased workload due to the interventions. The final study report was compiled and shared with the regional ENGINE team in the third quarter. The findings show that women and children are not overburdened by the livelihood inputs from the project. The male family members as well as children and women share the tasks. It was recommended to organize an orientation for household beneficiaries on the management and care of livestock and home gardens to equitably mobilize family labor and manage expectations in the household. Furthermore, seeds must be provided timely (before the rainy season) to avoid the workload and challenges that could be faced by the women in carrying water for the gardens. As a follow-up to this study, gender orientation (including work load management) was included in the project's livelihood guidelines and training manuals and seeds were provided to households in a timely manner to minimize time spent fetching water.

